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Festa Marija Bambina 2021

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Pubblikazzjoni:

Għaqda Mużikali Imperial
 Misraħ il-Parroċċa
 Il-Mellieħa, Malta
 Tel.: 21 520 536

Korrispondenza:

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Nota Editorjali:

Il-Bord Editorjali jfakkar illi l-
 opinjonijiet u l-fehmiet espressi
 fl-artikli u fl-ittri ppubblikati f' dan
 il-magażin huma opinjonijiet u
 fehmiet tal-awturi nfushom, u
 m'għandhom qatt jinfehm
 bhala l-fehma tal-Bord Editorjali
 jew tad-Direzzjoni tal-Għaqda
 Mużikali Imperila. Il-fehma tad-
 direzzjoni hija riflessa fil-
 messagġi tal-uffiċjali u fl-editorjal.

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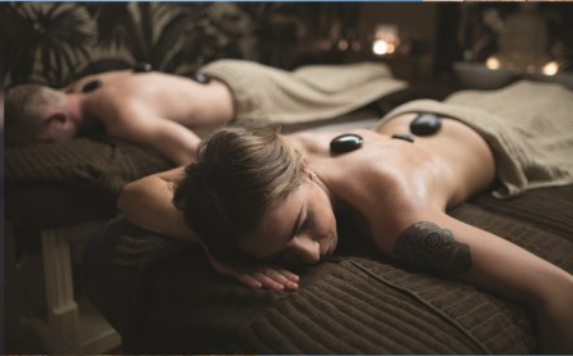
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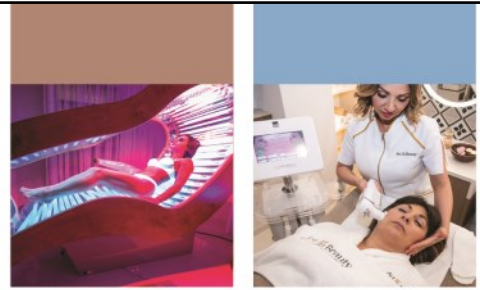


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L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tul l-aħħar sena

Josef Borg
President



Bla dubju ta' xejn, il-pandemija tal-COVID-19 tat daqqa ta' ħarta lis-settur tal-volontarjat, majnata li mhux faċli li jqum minnha. Din il-pandemija ma konniex qed nistennewha u lanqas ma konna qed nippreparaw għaliha, iżda waslet fuq xtutna bħal sajjetta fil-bnazzi. Bħal diversi stabbilimenti oħrajn, il-każini kienu magħluqin mill-Awtorità tas-Saħħa Pubblika għal perjodu twil ta' żmien. Hsibna li se tkun diffiċli biex tagħlaq il-bibien, imma fil-verità ftit konna nafu, jew forsi ma ridniex naċċettaw, li se tkun ferm iktar diffiċli biex terga' tiftaħ wara li jgħaddi l-aġħar.

Tul dawn ix-xhur li għamilna bil-bibien magħluqa, ix-xogħol baqa' għaddej għalkemm forsi b'ritmu inqas minn ta' qabel. Wassalna fi tmiemu proġett bl-isem ta' "It-Teknoloġija fit-tagħlim mużikali" fl-iskema "It-Taħriġ Mużikali taż-Żgħażaġh fil-Każini tal-Banda, 2020" amministrata mill-Aġenzija Żgħażaġh u l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda. Permezz ta' dan il-proġett, investejna f'għadd ta' tablets li qassamna lill-istudenti tagħna u f'numru ta' strumenti, kif ukoll abbonajna għal software professjonali li jintuza fit-tagħlim mużikali, kemm tat-teorija, kif ukoll tal-prattika. Nistqarr li qatt ma kien il-ħsieb tagħna li naqilbu kompletament it-tagħlim għall-mod virtwali, imma għall-inqas kellna l-għodda biex stajna naghmlu dan mingħajr wisq telf ta' żmien meta gejna kostretti naghmlu hekk.

Proġett ieħor ambizzjuż li temmejna b'suċċess kien jittratta l-istorja tal-għaqda tagħna, bl-isem ta' "Nippreservaw u nikkomunikaw l-Istorja tal-Għaqda" fl-iskema "Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme 2020" amministrata mill-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur Volontarju. Dan il-proġett kien maqsum fuq tliet fażijiet. Fl-ewwel fażi għamilna xogħol ta' preservazzjoni u arkivjar b'mod professjonali tad-dokumenti storiċi u importanti tal-għaqda tagħna sa mill-bidu tagħha sabiex dawn ma jkomplix jiġrilhom iktar ħsara, grazzi għax-xogħol siewi u imprezzabbli tas-Sinjorina Maria Borg. Dawn jinkludu l-minuti, il-korrispondenza, ritratti u materjal ieħor li għandu l-każin, u fl-istess waqt irrangajna l-uffiċċju tas-

segretarju sabiex ikun jista' jilqa' dan il-materjal. It-tieni parti kienet tiffoka fuq il-kitba dettaljata u riċerkata tal-istorja tal-għaqda, grazzi għall-ħidma mirquma tas-Sur Jonathan Muscat fuq ix-xogħol mibdi mill-mibki Jimmy Muscat. B'hekk għandna migbura fid-dettall l-istorja tal-ewwel 75 sena tal-għaqda. Fittietet fażi ppreparajna esebizzjoni semipermanenti fuq l-istorja tal-għaqda, grazzi speċjalment għax-xogħol tas-Surmast Anthony Borg li b'ħafna paċenzja u ħsieb dar ir-ritratti kollha sabiex stajna naghzlu minnhom u tas-Sur Stephen Grima li ha ħsieb id-disinn finali. Din qed tkun esebita fis-sular t'isfel tal-każin u tkun tista' tingarr meta u fejn ikun hemm bżonn.

Bħalissa għaddejnin b'diversi proġetti oħra. Se nsemmi biss ix-xogħol li għaddej fuq il-faċċata tal-każin fl-iskema "Irrestawra Darek" amministrata mill-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar. Ix-xogħol tal-ġebel u x-xogħol tal-injam fuq il-bibien tal-gallarija fit-tieni sular tal-każin issa huwa lest. Issa jonqos li naqdbu s-sular t'isfel u jsir ix-xogħol neċessarju f'dan il-livell. Il-logistika f'dan il-każ hi iktar kumplessa, imma ninsabu kunfidenti li fix-xhur li ġejjin naraw ukoll it-twertiq ta' din il-parti tal-proġett.

Kif jafu bosta nies li huma midhla tal-każin tagħna u dawk li jsegwu l-kitbiet fuq il-fuljett annwali li nippubblikaw, f'dawn l-aħħar snin l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial investiet ħafna ħin u riżorsi biex tieħu inizjattivi varji, u biex tibbenifika minn diversi skemi ta' fondi u twettaq proġetti li jolqtu diversi aspetti li jikkarakterizzaw il-ħajja f'każin tal-banda. Dan ma sarx mingħajr tbatija u mingħajr saġrifċċji, imma b'ħafna dedikazzjoni u impenn. Nixtieq għalhekk naghmel appell sabiex flimkien naghmlu kuragg u nippruwaw biex, fl-iqsar żmien possibbli, nerggħu naqdbu t-triq li kellna nitilqu minnha f'daqqa waħda, sabiex dak li bdejna matul is-snin nipproteġuh, insaħħuh, insostnuh u nkattruh, dejjem b'risq din l-għaqda li tant inħobbu u għall-ġid ta' raħalna l-Mellieħa.

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Il-Festa

Dario Vella

Sindku



Nixtieq nibda billi niringrazzja minn qalbi lill-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial ta' din l-opportunità biex inwassal il-messaġġ tiegħi bħala Sindku tal-Mellieħa fil-ktejjeb li s-soċjetà mużikali Imperial tippubblika ta' kull sena fl-okkażjoni tal-festa.

Il-festa, fl-opinjoni tiegħi, hija l-isbaħ żmien tas-sena fejn tara l-għaqdiet tar-raħal magħqudin jaħdmu bla waqfien biex dejjem jagħtu festa isbaħ minn dik tas-sena ta' qabel. Hija hasra li dawn l-aħħar żewġ festi kienu totalment differenti minn kif nafuhom is-soltu. Però nixtieq niringrazzja lill-għaqdiet kollha li baqgħu għaddejjin bil-ħidma tagħhom anke waqt dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli. Dan ikompli juri l-impenn li kull għaqda jkollha għar-raħal u għall-membri tagħha. Huwa importanti li nħarsu 'l quddiem u nħallu l-passat warajna. Huwa importanti li issa flimkien nkomplu naħdmu id f'id biex jekk il-Bambin irid fl-2022 inkunu ersaqna lura għan-

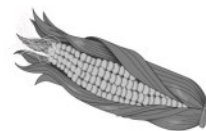
normalità u b'hekk nerġgħu nibdew niċcelebraw il-festi Maltin kif verament nafuhom.

L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial hija għaqda oħra fil-lokalità tal-Mellieħa li taħdem b'dedikazzjoni għall-komunità kollha. Għalkemm żminijiet diffiċli, xorta kienu innovattivi u ħarġu b'ideat originali biex jagħtu servizz lill-membri tagħhom kif ukoll lill-komunità. Minn qalbi nawguralhom kull suċċess fl-attivajiet li għandhom għal din is-sena u anke għall-futur.

Nixtieq nagħlaq dan il-messaġġ, billi f'ismi u f'isem sħabi l-kunsilliera kollha u l-istaff tal-Kunsill Lokali tal-Mellieħa, niringrazzja lill-President is-Sur Josef Borg u lil sħabu kollha tal-ħidma bla waqfien tagħhom matul is-sena kollha u lill-familjari tagħhom tas-sapport. Nawgura l-festa t-tajba lil kulhadd.

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Din l-imbierka pandemija!

Kan. Dun Joe Caruana

Arcipriet



Żgur li s-snin 2020 u 2021 (nisperaw li mhux ukoll l-2022) ser jibqgħu mmarkati fl-istorja tad-dinja għal hafna snin oħra. Il-ħsara li għamlet il-pandemija COVID-19 u kif gabet lid-dinja kollha għarkupptejha hi haġa tal-biża'. Nitkellmu fuq imxijiet kbar tal-antik; biss minkejja li dawn għamlu herbiet kbar minn nazzjonijiet u kultant ukoll kontinenti, ftit kienu dawk li stajt issejnhom pandemiji, jiġifieri li xterdu mad-dinja kollha. Il-fatt li llum in-nies tant jivvjaġġaw, min fuq xogħol u min għall-vaganzi, xerred din il-marda mad-dinja kollha. Żgur li fil-passat iċ-Ċina ntlaqtet minn pesti jew mard ieħor li jittiehed li halla herba shiħa, imma tista' tgħid li dejjem kienu limitati għal dak il-pajjiż biss għax in-nies qajla kienu johorġu jew iżuru pajjiżi oħra. Mhux hekk illum.

Il-pandemija halliet herba kullimkien – nies mejta, miljuni morda, ekonomiji mkissra minhabba li hafna nies ma setgħux imorru xogħol, tagħlim imkisser u vjaġġar imharbat u l-kumplament ta' ħsara li mhux kollha nagħrfu l-konsegwenzi tagħhom malajr. Biss apparti din il-ħsara materjali hemm ħsara oħra li hi ferm aġar. Żgur li mal-ewwel tigik f'moħħok il-ħsara psikoloġika u mentali. Min diġà kellu problemi psikoloġiċi, il-biża' tal-pandemija u l-miżuri horox li kellhom jittiehdu biex titrażzan, waddbithom il-baħar. Li bniedem diġà b'dawn id-diffikultajiet iġġiegħlu ma johroġx minn daru, haġa tal-biża'. Daqshekk ieħor tal-biża' dawk li mardu u wkoll tilfu hajjithom u waqt il-marda tagħhom u l-aħħar mumentu ma setax ikollhom il-faraġ tal-familja madwarhom. Kollha kemm aħna għandna mmutu, uħud minna permess ta' mard kiefer, imma dawk li ma jkollhomx sapport tal-familja f'dawn il-mumentu, dulur doppju, kemm għal min imut u kemm għal min jibqa'. Żgur li ħsara kbira oħra kienet dik li t-fal u l-istudenti ma setgħux imorru skola. It-tagħlim online hu soluzzjoni parzjali biss u żgur li qatt ma jieħu post it-tagħlim wiċċ imb wiċċ fil-klassi, fost affarijiet oħra għax l-iskejjel tagħna ma jgħallmunix biss informazzjoni u suġġetti differenti, imma wkoll

kif ingibu ruħna bejnietna b'mod ċivili fis-soċjetà. Il-pandemija ċaħħdet din l-interazzjoni tant meħtieġa f'kull stadju tal-iskola, mill-play school sa l-università, lil miljuni ta' studenti u ż-żmien biss għad jurina x'ser ikun ir-riżultat tagħha.

Bħala Knisja ntlaqatna wkoll minn din l-imxija. Il-fatt li ma stajniex niltaqgħu għat-talb flimkien, speċjalment għall-quddies tal-Ħdud, kienet ta' wġiħ il-qalb kbir. L-anzjani tagħna kienu jitniehdu li lanqas waqt il-gwerra ma kellu jieqaf il-quddies! Il-problema tkompli anke wara għax hemm numru li waqfu jiġu l-quddies meta ma stajniex nattendu u s'issa għadhom ma reġgħux lura. Ġew imharbta ċ-ċelebrazzjoni tas-sagramenti u t-tagħlim tal-katekiżmu għall-kbar u għaž-żgħar. Ovvjament peress li aħna bnedmin soċjali anke ċ-ċelebrazzjonijiet tagħna jkollhom elementi li niċċelebrawhom barra l-knejjes tagħna u dawn ukoll kellna niċċaħħdu minnhom billi twaqqfu l-festi esterni.

Allura l-pandemija effetti negattivi biss halliet fuqna? L-Inglizi jgħidu li kull shaba, sewda kemm hi sewda, trufha jkollhom hajta fiddiena. Liema hi dil-hajta fidda li tifdi xi ftit lill-pandemija?

Żgur li kollha kemm aħna grati fuq kollox lejn il-membri tas-saħħa pubblika li b'tant dedikazzjoni, sagrificiċji personali u kultant b'soġru għal hajjithom, għamlu minn kollox biex jagħtu l-għajnuna kollha lill-morda.

Hafna persuni oħra, b'generozità kbira, raw kif għamlu biex jaqdu lil dawk li ma setgħux johorġu minn djarhom.

Fil-Knisja mbaġhad, għalkemm il-qima pubblika kellna nwaqqfuha għal xhur shaħ, f'Malta konna xxurtjati li qatt ma kellna nagħlqu l-knejjes u tista' tgħid li kuljum kien hemm dak in-numru, anke jekk zġħir, li kienu jiġu jitolbu fis-skiet. Żgur li kien hemm numru kbir li seggew, sikwit jew kuljum, il-quddies u talb

ieħor fuq is-siti tal-mezzi tal-komunikazzjoni soċjali. Tgħallimna wkoll kif inwasslu l-katekiżmu online. Numru sewwa li għall-ewwel darba f'hajjithom ġew imċaħħda mill-ewkaristija u s-sagramenti l-oħra bdew japprezzawhom ħafna iżjed. Il-pandemija tatna ċ-ċans ukoll li naghżlu l-qamħ mill-karfa, dak li hu essenzjali u l-qalba tal-fidi minn dak li hu sempliċement il-qoxra ta' barra u żieda li aktar qiegħda hemm għas-sodisfazzjon tagħna milli għall-qima t'Alla.

Wasalna għal festa oħra parrokkjali. Sakemm qed nikteb dan l-artiklu nistgħu

niċcelebraw il-festi ta' ġewwa għalkemm sfortunatament mhux dawk ta' barra. Ejjew ma niħdux dan qisu mhu xejn imma napprezzawh għax nirrealizzaw li dak li kellna sa minn dejjem nistgħu nitilfuh f'sekonda. Nitolbu bil-qalb lil Ommna Marija biex hi tidhol għalina quddiem Alla binha biex jeħlisna minn kull ħsara u minn kull ħażen. Hi vittorjuża fuq dawk li qabel konna narawhom bħala għedewwa imma li issa nirrealizzaw li huma ħutna, illum nitolbuha biex teħlisna minn dik li hi ħsara vera kemm tar-ruħ u kemm tal-ġisem.

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Wara l-maltempata...

Dr John Baptist Gauci
Segretarju Ġenerali



Il-bniedem tkun taf xi jsarraf meta tpoġġih fil-prova bħal meta tgħaddi ħadida min-nar tal-forġa. Meta kollox ikun ward u żahar, ftit li xejn johroġ il-karattru tal-individwu, imma meta tiġi s-sieġha tal-prova, hemmhekk tkun taf eżatt il-valuri u l-prinċipji li jkun iħaddan. Issib min, meta jħabbat wiċċu ma' żmien diffiċli, dlonk jitfa' l-isponża u jlebbet 'il bogħod, jew inkella jdawwar wiċċu daqslikieku lilek qatt ma kien jafek, forsi wkoll ikun hemm min jithajjar jehodha kontrik u jipprova jagħtik majnata ikbar biex hu jitla' iktar 'il fuq. Imma mbagħad issib min jurik l-id tal-ħbiberija, min ikun lest li jnewwillek driegħu biex jgħinek mill-aħjar li jkun jista', anke jekk forsi dan ikun jitlob sagrificċju personali akbar. Tehodha iktar bi kbira meta ma ssibx is-sapport minn dawk il-persuni li tkun qed tistenna, u tkun sorpriż jekk xi hadd li forsi qabel kien fil-periferija jersaq viċin biex jgħin. U dan li għidt jgħodd mhux biss fil-ħajja personali ta' dak li jkun, imma wkoll fil-ħajja ta' għaqda soċjali bħalma hi din tagħna.

Dawn l-aħħar xhur ġegħluna nħabbtu wiċċna ma' dak li qatt ma konna qed nistennew jew nimmaginaw. Bħal donnu kollox ikkrolla qisu kastell tal-karti quddiem għajnejna. Xi wħud mill-pjanijiet li konna għamilna b'ħafna ħsieb u li kellna kontra qalbna nipposponu spicċaw xorta waħda sfaxxaw fix-xejn, saru duħħan, taru mar-riħ. Żgur li hadd ma kien qed jistenna li se tolqotna din il-maltempata, u daqstant iehor żgur li hadd ma kien qed jobsor li din il-pandemija kienet ser ittul daqshekk. L-ekonomija tal-pajjiż ħadet daqqa ta' ħarta, is-settur turistiku kważi sfaxxa fix-xejn, bosta negozji kellhom jiffaċċjaw sfidi liema bħalhom, xi wħud tilfu lil xi hadd għażiż għalihom, rajna problemi kbar ta' saħħa mentali kawża tas-solitudni, u l-għaqdiet volontarji, fosthom il-każini tal-banda, raw l-entuzjażmu li jikkarakterizzahom jonqos u, nazzarda ngħid, kemm kemm jibqa' ħjiel tiegħu. Kien, għadu u se jibqa' għal bosta xhur, żmien diffiċli, u hu propju għalhekk li f'dan iż-żmien tista' tkejjel sew min huma dawk li tista' sserraħ fuqhom, lil min tista' tafda u fuq min tista' ddu.

Nibda minn dawk ta' ġewwa nett. Wara diversi xhur bil-bibien magħluqa, fl-aħħar kellna ċ-ċans li nerggħu nibdew naghmlu l-kunċerti ta' kull ġimgħa tal-banda u tal-kor. U l-bandisti u l-membri tal-kor tagħna rrispondew bi ħġarhom. Hemm xi wħud li baqgħu ma dehrux, imma dawn tista' tgħodhom fuq is-swaba ta' id waħda. Hemm min għandu raġuni tajba għalfejn mhux qed jattendi, imbagħad hemm oħrajn li forsi birdu xi ftit. Ma tlum lil hadd. Irridu nkunu aħna li naghmlu l-almu tagħna sabiex dawk li għadhom mhux qed jattendu nilhquhom u nħajruhom jerggħu jiġu lura. Il-fatt li ma tistax tippjana fit-tul u ma tistax tagħmel objettiv għal xiex timmira żgur li mhux qed jgħin, anzi jtellef. Madanakollu, l-attendenza li qed ikollna timliena b'kuragg u ottimizmu. Ninkwieta kieku dorna fuq in-nies tagħna u ma sibnihomx, jew sibna ftit wisq. Għallinqas hekk nasal biex nemmen li xi haġa tajba għamilna, qed naghmlu u nittama li nibqgħu naghmlu.

Jekk indawwar ħarsti daqsxejn iktar 'il bogħod, nara diversi membri li reġgħu bdew jattendu l-każin. Bil-mod il-mod, in-numru qed jiddied. Wiehed irid iqis li m'għamilniex ftit jiem jew ġimgħat magħluqin, imma xhur twal u kefrin. Hemm min laħaq qabad xi mod iehor kif iqatta' l-ħin liberu. Ma tlum lil hadd. Il-granet keshin u mdallmin tax-xitwa trid timliehom b'xi haġa. Imma li tara l-membri tiegħek imdawrin ma' mejda jgħidu kelma, speċjalment dawk li s-solitudni ta' dawn l-aħħar xhur fniethom, jagħtik sodisfazzjon. Nittama li meta jerga' jkollna l-oppunità li nibdew norganizzaw xi attivitajiet, in-numru jerga' jiddied u fiduċjuż li niġbdu lura lil dawk li għadhom ftit beżgħana jew mwiegħra milli jidhlu lura fil-każin. Iż-żmien biss jagħtina parir.

Imbagħad intawwal ħarsti ftit oħra. Iż-żminijiet diffiċli juruk lil min tista' tafda mill-bibien 'il barra wkoll. Tara l-irġulija, jew in-nuqqas tagħha, ta' dawk li, b'xi mod jew iehor, ikollok relazzjoni magħhom u tkun trid taħdem

magħhom. U meta qed nitkellem fuq “irġulija”, mhux qed nitkellem fuq min jilbes qalziet għax mhux qalziet jagħtik l-irġulija. Qed nitkellem fuq kemm tista’ tafda lill-persuna konċernata, kemm il-kelma tiegħu jew tagħha għandha valur, kemm persuna lesta li tgħix dak li tipprietka. Sfortunatament għadek issib min lesta li jerga’ lura minn kelmtu, forsi kawża tal-persuni ta’ madwaru. Oħrajn, li biex ma jidhrux koroh ma’ dawka ta’ madwarhom, lesta li jdurru daqs pinnur skont minn fejn jonfoħ ir-riħ. Hemm min mhux lesta li jieħu deċiżjoni li hija mistennija minnu, u minflok joqgħod fuq il-ħajt jistenna biex jara x’se jiġri, jekk ma jazzardax jipprova jiffa’ din ir-responsabilità fuq haddieħor. Ma’ dawn in-nies li jippruvaw iduru ma’ kull kantuniera sabiex jippruvaw jiżgiċkaw ma tistax ma toħroġlokx b’mod spontanju l-frazi “mela aħna tfal?”, u dan sabiex ma toffendihomx jew ma tibgħathomx isaqqu l-ħass tal-Marsa.

Mill-banda l-oħra, hemm min jara kif se jżomm kelmtu dwar dak li wegħdek li se

jagħmel meta kien żmien ieħor u forsi żmien aħjar. Hemm persuni li lesta jagħmlu dak li hu gust u sewwa, ankè jekk forsi jafu li mhux se jżidu fil-popolarità, imma għax jemmnu bis-siħ li l-gustizzja u s-sewwa m’hemmx aqwa minnhom. Hemm nies li l-kelma ta’ raġel u l-kelma ta’ mara għad għandha valur għalihom u mhux lesta li jmorru lura minnha. Nies bħal dawn jagħmlu komunità b’saħħitha, magħquda, tiflaħ għall-maltemp, u kapaċi tqum lura malajr wara li l-gwaj jibda jitbiegħed.

Il-maltempata għad tgħaddi, għad li kemm se ddum u meta se tgħaddi m’għandniex kontroll fuqhom aħna. Imma li nemmen li għandna kontroll fuqu hu x’se thalli warajha. Irridu nkunu aħna, jien l-ewwel wiehed, li naraw li dan is-saram iħalli komunità iktar gusta, soċjetà iktar magħquda, u għaqda iktar qawwija. Dan għall-gid ta’ pajjiżna, ta’ raħalna, imma b’mod speċjali tal-għaqda li tant għandna għal qalbna, l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial.

Il-festa t-tajba lil kulhadd!

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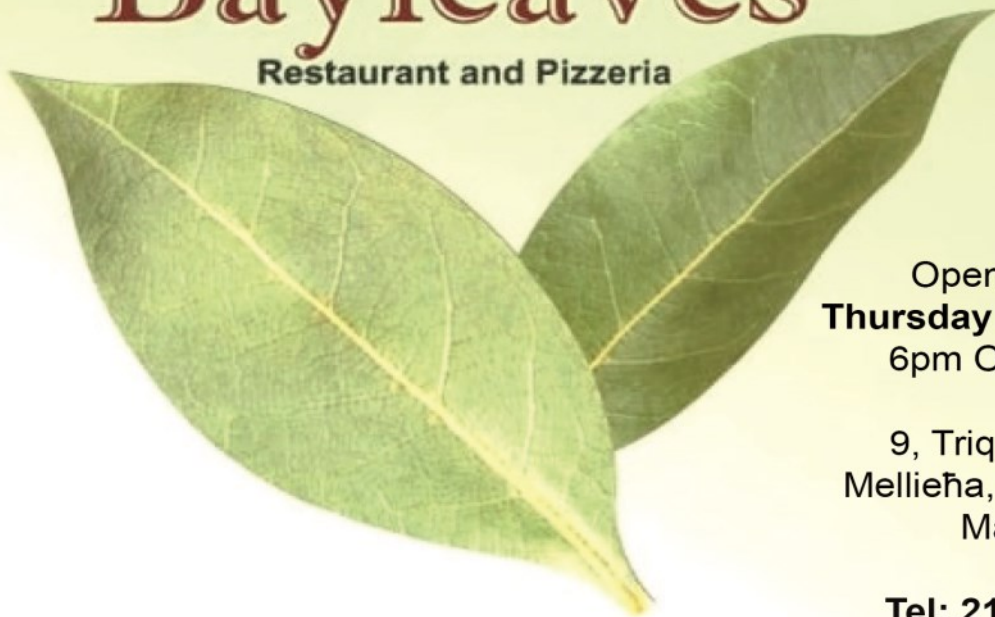
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Kemm nifilhu nibqgħu għaddejjin hekk?



Anthony Schembri

Segretarju Finanzjarju



Għat-tieni sena konsekuttiva, il-festa tant mistennija minna l-Mellehin reġgħet se tkun qed issir b'forma ridotta hafna. Taqta' l-festi ta' gewwa, tista' tgħid li mill-għatba tal-knisja 'l barra ftit li xejn tinduna li qegħdin ftit jiem il-bogħod mill-festa tal-patrona ta' raħalna, Marija Bambina. U n-nuqqas tal-festa huwa biss sinjal żgħir imma sinifikanti tat-tibdil fil-ħajja soċjali li aħna m'dorrijin biha tort tal-pandemija tal-COVID-19. Matul l-aħħar tmintax -il xahar, l-attivitajiet kulturali u soċjali kollha kienu jew imħassra kompletament jew inkella organizzati f'bażi ferm anqas minn tas-soltu.

Dan it-taqlib kollu kellu effett kbir fuq il-finanzi tal-għaqdiet volontarji, fosthom tas-soċjetajiet mużikali ta' pajjiżna. Fejn qabel kont forsi tagħmel ikla xahar iva u xahar le, u permezz t'hekk tlaqqa' l-membri tiegħek u tħalli xi dħul għall-għaqda, dawn l-attivitajiet kellhom jieqfu hekk, jew inkella jinbidlu fis-sura tagħhom. Saru popolari l-ikket bid-delivery, imma filwaqt li għall-inqas iħallu xi ftit tad-dħul, jintilef l-iskop oriġinali tagħhom, jiġifieri dak li tiltaqa' madwar mejda bejn erbat iħbieb u tgħid kelma waqt li timla l-ħawsla.

Nistqarr li d-donazzjonijiet li l-għaqdiet bħal tagħna kienu jirċievu mingħand benefatturi li għandhom għal qalbhom il-kultura u l-arti mużikali naqsu wkoll. U dan mhux b'kapriċċ jew għax dawn il-benefatturi birdu, imma għax id-dħul tagħhom ha daqqa lura liema bħalha. F'raħalna fejn il-magġoranza tan-nies jaħdmu b'mod dirett jew indirett fl-industrija tat-turizmu, industrija li ħadet tisbita waqt il-pandemija, mhux kulhadd ikun komdu bħal qabel li jdaħħal idu fil-but biex jgħinek mill-aħjar li jista'. U ngħiduha kif inhi, każin bil-biben magħluqa fejn lanqas attivitajiet mużikali ma stajna ntelegħu, ftit ihegġeġ lil dak li jkun biex javvicina lil xi hadd tal-kumitat u jagħtih donazzjoni.

F'din is-sitwazzjoni xejn faċli, ma jistax wieħed ma jistaqsix kemm jistgħu u kemm jifilhu l-għaqdiet

volontarji tagħna jibqgħu sejr in hekk. L-ispejjeż xi ftit naqsu wkoll, imma żgur li mhux bl-istess rata li bih naqas id-dħul. Veru li kien hemm xi għajnuniet min-naħa tal-gvern lill-għaqdiet volontarji u lill-każini tal-banda li kienu bħall-manna mis-sema, imma dawn kienu jkopru biss xi ftit mill-ispejjeż rikurrenti. Ikun hemm spejjeż oħra relatati ma' proġetti u xogħol ieħor li jkunu jridu jithallsu, u jekk ma tkunx għaqli u tqassam il-flus sew, malajr tasal f'punt li jdaħħlek go ħajt. U wieħed ma jridx jinsa li bosta mill-għaqdiet mużikali jagħtu t-tagħlim tal-mużika lill-istudenti mingħajr ħlas, u saħansitra jipprovdulhom strumenti biex ikunu jistgħu jipprattikaw. Bħala għaqda ħassejna li dan ma stajniex inwaqqfuh jew innaqqsu, anzi, talli investejna iktar f'dan il-qasam sabiex stajna nkomplu bit-tagħlim b'mod virtwali meta dak tradizzjonali kellu jitwaqqaf. Ma nistax hawnhekk ma nagħmilx referenza għall-fondi amministrati mill-Aġenzija Żgħażaġh u mill-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda bħala parti mill-proġett "It-taħriġ mużikali taż-żgħażaġh fil-każini tal-Banda 2021" li kienu strumentali biex din il-bidla għat-tagħlim virtwali setgħet tkun possibbli.

Nagħlaq billi nringrazzja lil kull min f'dawn iż-żminijiet diffiċli xorta waħda baqa' jgħin lill-għaqda tagħna mill-aħjar li seta', jew permezz ta' donazzjonijiet jew permezz tax-xogħol volontarju. Dan jimliena b'kuragg u determinazzjoni sabiex inkomplu naħdmu għall-gid tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial u tal-komunità Mellehija.

Nixtieq nawgura l-festa t-tajba lill-anzjani, lill-emigranti u lill-Mellehin kollha.



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Ix-Xogħol fil-Każin waqt il-Pandemija



Clayton Vella

Direttur



Insellmilkom! Għaddiet sena oħra u ergajt ninsab hawn nikteb żewġ versi għall-magazine li l-għaqda tagħna toħroġ ta' kull sena għal żmien il-festa ta' Marija Bambina. Dawn is-sentejn kienu kompletament differenti mis-snin preċedenti anke l-għaliex l-pubblikazzjoni ta' dan il-ktejjeb kellha tinbidel u ssir biss fil-forma diġitali minħabba l-pandemija li għaddejjin minnha tal-COVID-19.

Għalkemm, kif ġara s-sena l-oħra, fejn għal żmien twil il-każin kien magħluq, din is-sena ftit li xejn kienet differenti, anzi pjuttost aghar għax il-każin kien magħluq għal żmien itwal. Minkejja dan, ix-xogħlijiet xorta waħda baqgħu għaddejjin għax fejn jidhlu proġetti li tkun ħadt fondi għalihom iż-żmien ma jiqafx. Fost dawn il-proġetti li għamilna ġewwa l-każin din is-sena kien imiss xogħol fil-kamra tas-segretarju parti mill-proġett "Nippreservaw u nikkomunikaw l-Istorja tal-Għaqda" fl-iskema "Voluntary Organisations Projects Scheme 2020" amministrata mill-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur Volontarju. Dan kien jirrikjedi xogħol strutturali għax kellna ndaħħlu travu u ħsibna biex inżidu d-dawl naturali li jidhul fl-uffiċċju, filwaqt li żidna ukoll l-għamara sabiex tkun tista' takkomoda aħjar id-dokumenti storiċi li ġew ippreservati.

Wara li ħarġu l-permessi meħtieġa tajna bidu wkoll għax-xogħol ta' tisbiħ fuq il-faċċata taħt l-iskema "Irrestawra darek". Beda x-xogħol estensiv fuq il-bibien tas-sular ta' fuq u dawn jinsabu lesti. Saru wkoll tliet bibien godda għal dawn l-aperturi. Peress li l-faċċata issa bdiet tieħu stil ieħor u diġà kien hemm xi dawl eżistenti li kellu jinqala' biex jagħmel spazju għal-lavur il-ġdid, ħassejna l-bżonn li jsir dawl ġdid. Ikkunsultajna ma' lighting designer biex tagħmel proposta biex nkunu nistgħu ngibu xi

kwotazzjonijiet għal dan il-proġett. L-ispiza ta' dan il-proġett hi waħda konsiderevoli u għalhekk għalissa kellna nħalluh naqra fil-ġenb minħabba raġunijiet finanzjarji.

Hekk kif ngħidu mad-daqqa niżfnu, u waqt li konna fiż-żifna nqala' benefattur li xtaq li jżibogħ il-ħadid tal-gallarija peress li dan issa kien jixraq li jkun abjad biex ikompli jikkumplimenta mad-dehra l-ġdida tal-faċċata. Kien għalhekk li ftit tal-gimghat ilu din inqalghet, ħadnieha għaž-zeba', sar ix-xogħol meħtieġ u issa ser jerga' jitwaħħal il-poġġaman wara li dan ukoll gie miżbugħ biex ikompli jikkumplimenta d-dehra l-ġdida tal-faċċata. Issa li x-xogħol fis-sular ta' fuq huwa tista' tgħid lest, jonqos li jsiru l-bibien t'isfel, fejn parti minn dan il-proġett strutturali, it-tieqa ser tinfetaħ bieb biex jiġi installat platform lift li bis-saħħa tiegħu l-każin jkun aċċessibbli għal kulħadd.

Dawn huma ftit mix-xogħlijiet maġġuri li saru din is-sena, parti sewwa minnhom waqt li l-każin kien magħluq. B'dawn ix-xogħlijiet ta' kostruzzjoni, kif wiehed jista' jimmaġina, inqala' ħafna trab u allura mbagħad kien imiss tindifa kif sewwa u xieraq. Min hawn nixtieq niringrazzja lil kull min għen b'xi mod jew ieħor, b'mod speċjali lil dawk il-benefatturi illi fehmu s-sitwazzjoni preżenti u għamlu x-xogħol mingħajr ma talbu ebda ċenteżmu u lil kull min għen xi darba jew oħra biex ergajna naddafna l-każin wara dan ix-xogħol kollu.

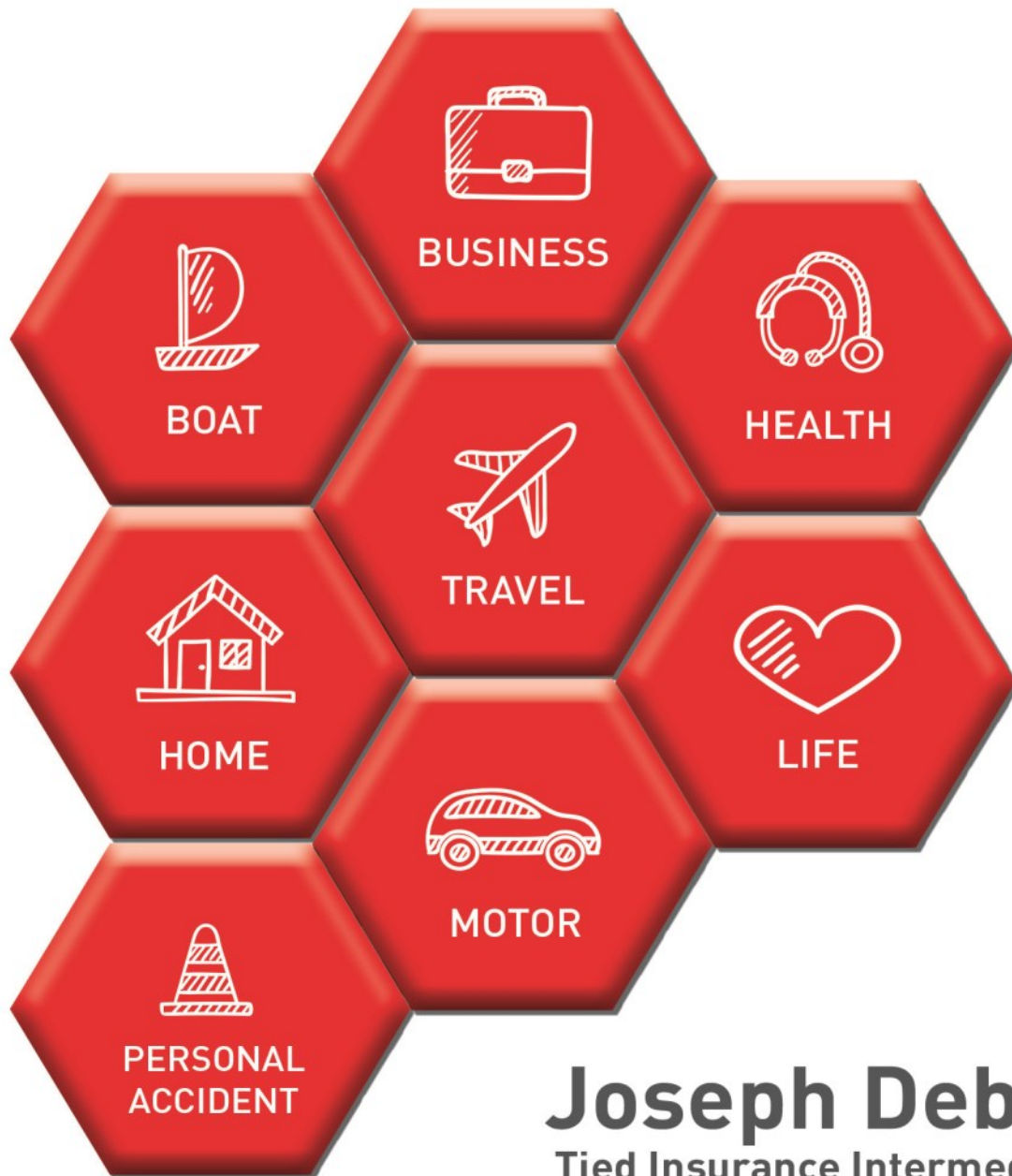
Nagħlaq billi nawgura l-festa t-tajba lill-Melleħin kollha, lil šhabi tal-kumitat u lil dawk li qed jaqraw din il-pubblikazzjoni biex, fiċ-ċirkustanzi illi ninsabu fihom ilkoll, bi prudenza xierqa nieħdu pjaċir flimkien.

Żuru l-website tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial

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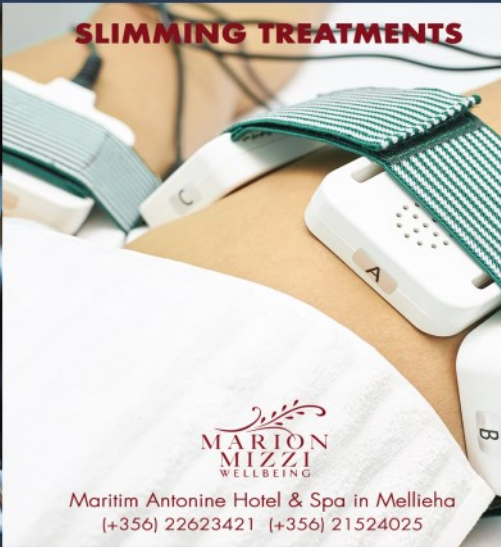


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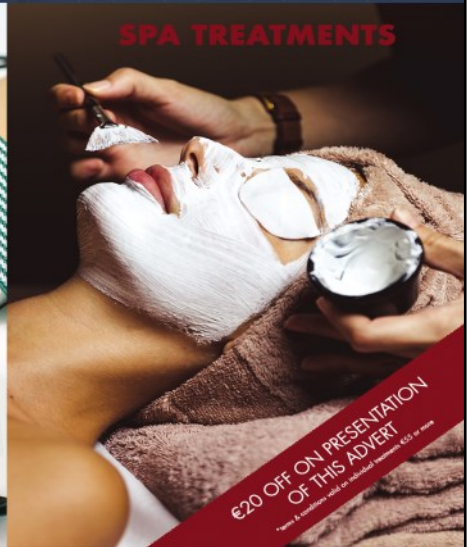
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#sibijeti...

Inħarsu 'l quddiem

Tnax-il xahar ilu kont naħseb li l-qilla tal-pandemija COVID-19 kienet bdiet ttrin u l-ħajja kient ġeġja naqra naqra lura għal dik li konna mdorrijin ngħixu sa tmintax-il xahar ilu. Mort żmerċ għax wara l-festa tal-Vitorja għal darba oħra l-attività ġewwa l-għaqdjet mużikali tagħna reġgħet waqfet hesrem minħabba l-istess pandemija. Nistqarr li kien żmien diffiċli u ta' incertezza. Kien ta' sodisfazzjon kbir iżda, li meta ngħata l-permess mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa biex tkompli l-attività mużikali, kemm il-banda u kemm il-kor, komplejna fejn konna ħallejna. Fraħt ħafna meta kellna attendenza tajba ħafna meta ergajna komplejna bil-provi. Hawnhekk ma nistax ma niringrazzjax lill-bandisti u lill-membri tal-kor tal-impenn tagħhom biex fl-aħħar xhur komplejna bl-attività mużikali fl-għaqda tagħna. Ma kienx żmien faċli imma issa la ergajna tlaqna, nagħmlu l-kuraġġ lil xulxin, inħarsu 'l quddiem u nittamaw li 'l quddiem inkunu nistgħu nferrħu lill-poplu tagħna bil-marċi u l-programmi mużikali.

Ġanni

Lejn it-tmiem is-sena li għaddiet għadda għal ħajja aħjar seħibna Ġanni Schembri. Serva għal snin twal fil-Kumitat tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial fejn ta s-sehem tiegħu kull fejn kien ikun hemm bżonn mingħajr daqq ta' trombi. Qatt ma smajtu jgħid il-kelma "Le!" Konna niltaqgħu ta' sikwit nieħdu xi flixkun birra jew xi grokk (skont l-istagun) flimkien filgħaxija l-kazin. Issa li mar jiltaqa' ma' martu Vivie ħdejn il-Hallieq, lil Ġanni nibqa' niftakru bħala bniedem ferrieħi bi tħissima ġenwina u sinciera.

Toni l-Huttu

Halliena x-xahar li għadda fl-età sabiħa ta' sebgħa u disgħin sena. Pilastru ieħor tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial. Ilni nafu minn meta kont tfajjel, jirsisti kemm jiflaħ b'kull mod għall-għaqda li tant kien iħobb; waqt il-fieri, fil-għbir ta' fondi u ħadem qatigħ ma' ħafna oħrajn biex

Mro Anthony Borg

Surmast Direttur



l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial illum għandha każin mill-isbaħ. Imma l-mimmi t'għajnejn Toni kienet il-Banda Imperial.

Serva bħala bandist mal-istess banda għomor ta' bniedem ('il fuq minn tmenin sena!), u meta ma kienx possibbli li jibqa' jdoqq minħabba saħħtu xorta baqa' jakkumpanja lill-banda mal-marċi fil-jiem tal-Vitorja. X'eżempju għalina lkoll!

Toni u jien indoqqu l-istess strument. Għal żmien twil daqqejna maġenb xulxin. Meta ħriġt indoqq u rani nipprometti heġġiġni nkompli nistudja, għamilli l-kuraġġ u fuq kolloxx ma żammx id-dritta. Ċedieli postu u għenni kemm felaħ biex nirnexxi. Kompla jgħinni u jagħmilli kuraġġ meta aktar tard ġejt maħtur Direttur Mużikali tal-Banda Imperial.

Kienet xierqa t-tislama li l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tat lil Toni Caruana f'dawn iċ-ċirkustanzi. F'dawk il-mumentu diffiċli ftakart f'Toni u ftant oħrajn li ħadmu kemm felħu, ħafna drabi f'mumentu xejn faċli u b'sagrificċji kbar personali għalihom u għall-familji tagħhom, biex iwettqu dak li jemmnu fih u bis-saħħa tagħhom qegħdin ingawdu dak li għandna llum.

Insellem ukoll il-memorja tal-membri tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial li għaddew għal ħajja aħjar matul l-aħħar sena. Huma wkoll taw sehemhom biex l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial baqgħet tissaħħaħ u timxi 'l quddiem. Xieraq li niringrazzjawhom ta' dak kollu li għamlu f'ħajjithom, waqt li nibqgħu niftakru fihom dejjem fit-talb tagħna.

Nifraħ lil ...

Carl Borg, li l-kompożizzjoni tiegħu 'Three Bagatelles' għal tromba u flikornu ġiet magħżula bħala waħda minn ħames kompożizzjonijiet rebbieħa f'kompetizzjoni internazzjonali organizzata mill-Oxford Festival of Arts. Kompożizzjoni oħra ta' Carl Borg bl-isem 'Grajjet il-Bastjun' hija waħda mill-

kompożizzjonijiet rebbieħa għal xogħol originali ta' kompożituri lokali mnedija b'mod kongunt mill-Fondazzjoni Kottonera u l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda.

Mark Anthony Bartolo, li kiseb il-Baċcellerat fil-Mużika mill-Università ta' Malta.

Damian Vella, Elisa Borg u Kate Attard, li lkoll jiffurmaw parti mill-Malta Youth Orchestra.

Hajr...

Fl-aħħar nett nixtieq inrodd ħajr lil dawk kollha li b'xi mod jew ieħor taw il-kontribut tagħhom biex il-Banda u l-Kor Imperial baqgħu għaddejjin fi żminijiet xejn faċli. Fl-istess ħin inkomplu nħarsu 'l quddiem b'tama u b'kuragg biex flimkien inkomplu nibnu fuq is-suċċessi li kellna matul is-snin.

Minn qalbi nixtieq lil kulhadd il-festa t-tajba.

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Id-dinja li qiegħda tinbidel

Ryan Micallef

Membru, Kummissjoni Banda u Kor



Għat-tieni sena konsekuttiva ser nerggħu niċċelebraw il-festa tagħna b'mod differenti ħafna minn kif imdorrijin niċċelebrawha s-soltu. Naturalment, dan ma jnaqqasx l-istennija għall-festa għaliex din hija data importanti ħafna fil-kalendarju tagħna.

Bħal ħafna soċjetajiet oħra, is-sehem tal-banda kif ukoll tal-kor naqas f'diversi attivitajiet li l-għaqda kienet ittella' annwalment, bħal ngħidu aħna l-programm tal-Milied u ta' Hadd il-Palm. Naturalment, attivitajiet bħal dawn jinvolvu ħafna u ħafna xogħol, kemm għall-banda u l-kor, kif ukoll għall-Kummissjoni, però xogħol li jagħmlek kburi li kont parti minnu meta tara r-rispons u l-konkorrenza tan-nies. Nittamaw li fil-futur qrib ħafna nkunu nistgħu nerggħu nibdew ntellgħu dawn l-attivitajiet għall-komunità Melleħija u għal ħafna emigranti Melleħin li avolja ma jgħix hawn Malta, isegwu dawn l-attivitajiet online.

Madanakollu, hu ta' sodisfazzjon kbir li tara kif fi żmien daqshekk diffiċli għal kulhadd, is-sehem tagħna fil-każin ma naqasx, dejjem skont ir-restrizzjonijiet mahruġa mid-Direttorat tas-Saħħa. Fil-fatt, fil-festa tas-sena l-oħra, il-banda

daqget xi marċi brijużi u l-innu lil Maria Bambina minn fuq il-bejt tal-każin fil-granet tal-festa biex filwaqt li min kien fl-inħawi tal-pjazza seta' jismagħna, min kien gewwa daru jew barra minn Malta seta jsegwina online. Izjed tard matul is-sena, il-Kor Imperial ħa sehem f'Jum it-Tifkira' fejn fiha nfakkru l-memorja ta' shabna li rħewlha għal ħajja aħjar. Hekk kif beda jaqleb it-temp, il-banda setgħet terġa' tibda bil-kunċerti ta' kull gimgħa fuq il-bejt tal-każin biex filwaqt li nkomplu nitgħallmu u nipperfezzjonaw, inzommu l-banda ħajja xorta waħda. L-istess il-kor, li meta is-sitwazzjoni ppermettiet, beda jiltaqa' fuq bażi regolari għall-provi tiegħu.

Filwaqt li nhegġegħ ħafna lin-nies biex ikomplu jsegwu x-xogħol ristrett tal-banda u l-kor, nagħlaq billi nringrazzja lil shabi tal-Kummissjoni Banda u Kor tax-xogħol kollu li jsir matul is-sena, kif ukoll lill-bandisti u lill-membri tal-kor kollha għad-dedikazzjoni tagħhom.

Nawgura l-festa t-tajba lil kulhadd. Viva Marija Bambina!



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L-impenn żagħżuġħ

Damian Vella

Chairperson, Kummissjoni Żgħażaġħ



Għal dawn l-aħħar sena u nofs, kellna nimprovizzaw il-ħajja tagħna minħabba l-pandemija. Hadd ma kellu ħjiel li kienet ha tiġi festa oħra u jkollna ngawduha fis-skiet mingħajr attivitajiet u mingħajr l-aktar haġa għal qalbna, il-mużika. L-impatt ta' din il-pandemija għadu hadd ma jaf sewwa kemm ha jkun. Jiddependi minna li nippruvaw, hekk kif jippermetti, li nerġġhu nqumu u nagħtu s-salt biex naqbd u r-rutina li konna drajna biha. Fl-aħħar sena pruvajna kemm stajna biex nagħmlu xi attivitajiet; uħud kienu ta' suċċess filwaqt li oħrajn kellna nipposponuhom għal aktar 'il quddiem.

Bħalissa l-Kummissjoni Żgħażaġħ qiegħda twasslilkom minn żmien għal żmien ir-recordings tal-marċi li l-Banda Imperial għamlet matul l-aħħar snin; dan bil-ghan li ngeddu l-memorji u kulhadd ikun jista' jgawdi dawn il-marċi. L-ewwel sett ta' marċi huma tas-snin 1999-2000 u jibqgħu tilgħin sa-żminijiet tal-lum. Dawn tistgħu ssibuhom fuq il-profil ta' Youtube bl-isem ta' "Għaqda Mużikali Imperial" kif ukoll permezz ta' link minn fuq il-paġna ta' facebook tal-għaqda.

Il-Kummissjoni qiegħda taħdem ukoll sabiex il-wirja bl-isem ta' "Iċ-Ċaħda" fi żmien il-

Ġimgħa l-Kbira terġa' tirritorna fil-bidu tas-sena d-dieħla, fejn qed nimmiraw li tkun waħda kbira u mgħammra bla-qwa xogħol artistiku li tista' ssib ġewwa r-raħal tagħna. Ma nistax ma niringrazzjax lil dawk kollha li jkunu involuti fil-wirja, fosthom Edmund Camilleri, John Sammut u l-grupp organizzattiv "Mejda Tal-Appostli Mellieħa AD 1980", Michael Cauchi, Vince Parnis, Carmen Vella, Carl Caruana minn Caruana Lighting Decorations, il-Kumitat Direttiv u šħabi ż-zgħażaġħ.

Qabel nagħlaq nixtieq niringrazzja lil šħabi ż-zgħażaġħ talli meta jkun hemm bżonn dejjem issibhom biex ixammru l-kmiem, lill-Kumitat Direttiv u lil dawk kollha li b'xi mod jew ieħor jgħinu lill-kummissjoni u l-għaqda tagħna biex nimxu 'il quddiem.

Nixtieq nawgura l-festa t-tajba lill-Melleħin kollha u s-saħħa lil kulhadd. Dan iż-żmien diffiċli daqt wasal fit-tmiem u rridu nqumu aktar b'saħħitna minn qatt qabel. Šħabna li jinsabu fis-sema żgur li qed iħarsuna sew u jimlewna bil-kuraġġ.

Viva Marija Bambina u viva l-Banda Imperial.

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Singing makes you feel better



Julie Thomas

Director of the Imperial Choir



'Music produces a kind of pleasure that nature cannot do without.' (Confucius)

The Imperial Ladies Choir were denied the pleasure of music-making for most of last year. When we did meet up it was only independently in small numbers to sing in funerals, although we did manage to sing as a choir at our annual remembrance service at the Parish Church, albeit without the accompaniment of the band. There were no Christmas concerts, helping the tourists at the local hotels to celebrate the 'Season to be Jolly' nor the opportunity for residents at Dar il-Madonna tal-Mellieħa to join us in our carol concert; as a result, none of the usual commitments that keep the choir and the band going with the reward of sharing music with an audience. So, when the opportunity to begin rehearsing again was offered, how could I motivate the choir without a goal on the horizon? How could I remind them how much laughter and camaraderie we used to feel on Thursday rehearsals? After all, we had endured a long period of fear, uncertainty and mostly, a lack of social contact.

So how can singing help?

This article is not just for my lovely singing ladies but food for thought for anyone. Singing as part of a choir has been shown to improve mood, increase concentration and cognition levels, counteract anxiety and stress and, probably the most important of all, aid mental health through the socialisation element.

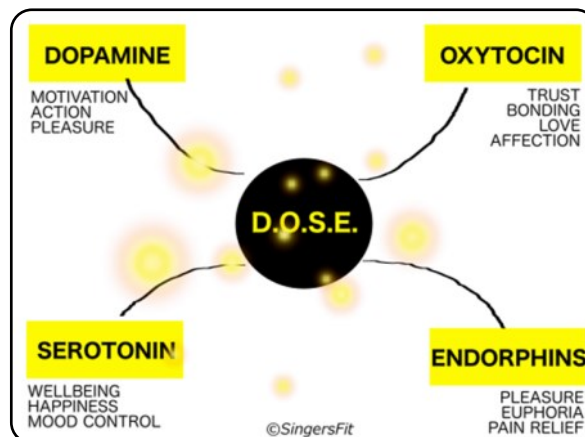
Sarah Wilson, a clinical neuropsychologist and head of the School of Psychological Sciences at the University of Melbourne, studied the brains of volunteers of varying vocal ability who were asked to sing whilst having an MRI scan. She said,

"There is a singing network in the brain which is quite broadly distributed. When we speak, the hemisphere of the brain dealing with language lights up. When we sing, however, both sides of the brain spark into life."

She goes on to state, "We also see involvement of the emotion networks of the brain. Regions that control the movements we need to produce sounds and articulation also light up. There is evidence that, in general, singing in a group enhances our empathy and social connection. We see this at football clubs, people singing in congregations at church. It's a community-building activity because we're united in our voice."

There are many scientific answers as to how singing can be beneficial, most of which state that when you sing in a group, whether it is a large choir or a smaller group, the act of collective singing causes your body to release endorphins, a hormone which can help promote positive feelings. These endorphins contribute to an overall feeling of happiness, a feeling of euphoria and therefore can be associated with a reduction in stress. Whatever the situation, whether it is stress, physical ailments, illness, or psychological deprivation, music has the qualities to affect our body and mind.

Apart from the increasing amount of scientific evidence that singing releases endorphins, it also releases serotonin, dopamine and oxytocin – the 'happy' chemicals that boost your mood and make you feel good about yourself. Scientists believe that's one of the reasons why people report being on a high



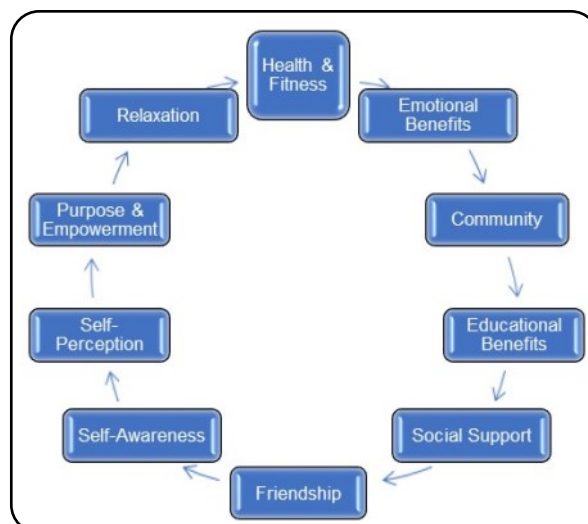
during choir sessions and continue to feel positive, uplifted and motivated afterwards. In addition to this, scientists have identified a tiny organ in the ear called the sacculus, which responds to the frequencies created by singing. The response creates an immediate sense of pleasure, regardless of what the singing sounds like. When you put all of that together, a DOSE of singing can simply take your mind off the day's troubles to boost your mood.

Even more science!

A 2017 study measured the amount of cortisol, the stress hormone, in a group of volunteers' saliva before and after they sang. Researchers in that study found that the amount of cortisol was lower after singing, an indication that people felt more relaxed after they had sung a tune. They also found singing reduces stress levels whether the participants were singing in a group or by themselves.

I have found that being part of a choir can be both exhilarating and transformative. It takes something incredibly intimate, a sound that begins inside you, shares it with a roomful of people and it comes back as something even more thrilling. Science is still hard at work trying to explain why it has such a calming yet energizing effect on people. What researchers are beginning to discover is that singing is like an infusion of the perfect tranquilizer, the kind that both soothes your nerves and elevates your spirits – without any harmful side-effects!

I'm sorry if now you have been hit by too much science; this is all you need to remember:



Singing, especially as a group or choir is cheaper than therapy, healthier than drinking, and certainly more fun than working out. It is the one activity in life where feeling better is pretty much guaranteed. Even if you walk into rehearsal feeling exhausted and depressed, by the end of the night you will walk out high as a kite on endorphins and goodwill. I have noticed this with the Ladies Choir – how the mood changes over the time spent at rehearsal. They are quiet and fairly reserved at the start, but all the club knows when they are leaving: the smiles, the jokes, the laughter, and the camaraderie. Long may we continue to have classic therapy Thursdays, ladies. Thank you for your commitment and I wish you and your families and all the friends of the Imperial Band Club a very happy Festa.



Interested in joining the Imperial Choir?

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Proġett għid imniedi mill-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial b'kollaborazzjoni mal-Aġenzija
Zghazagh ul-Għaqda Kazini tal-Banda bħala parti mill-iskema
'It-Tagħlim tal-Mużika għaz-Zghazagh fil-Kazini 2020'



A new project by the Imperial Band Club in collaboration with Agenzija Zghazagh and
Għaqda Kazini tal-Banda as part of the scheme 'Musical Tuition for Young People in
Band Clubs 2020'





Wara l-maltemp jiġi l-bnazzi

Philip Schembri

Għalliem tal-Mużika



Qiegħed nikteb dawn il-kelmtejn tiegħi f'it gimgħat qabel il-festa, wara perjodu ta' żmien fejn ma kienx possibbli li wieħed jippjana fit-tul. Il-pandemija kellha effett negattiv fuq kull qasam ta' ħajjtna, fixklitna u ħarbitna. Sfortunatament ukoll, pjanijiet li kellna għas-sena l-oħra u li ġew posposti għal din is-sena reġġu sfaxxaw. Tinħass diq kbira għax erġajna ma nistgħux niċcelebraw il-festa għaziża tagħna fin-normalità tagħha. Però, jidher li almenu l-festa interna fil-knisja tagħna ser jirnexxilna niċcelebrawha skont il-miżuri u r-restrizzjonijiet imposti fuqna mill-awtoritajiet tas-saħħa.

Grazzi għall-mezzi teknoloġiċi, bħas-sena l-oħra, it-tagħlim baqa' għaddej filwaqt li komplejna naddattaw rwieħna għal mod differenti ta' tagħlim. Nittamaw li kemm jista' jkun ma ndumux nistennew fit-tul sabiex nerġġu lura għan-normalità tant mixtieqa minna l-għalliema u l-istudenti tagħna.

Ninsab imnikket għall-aħħar għall-aħbar li s-soċjetà tagħna tilfet żewġ membri tal-kumitat li

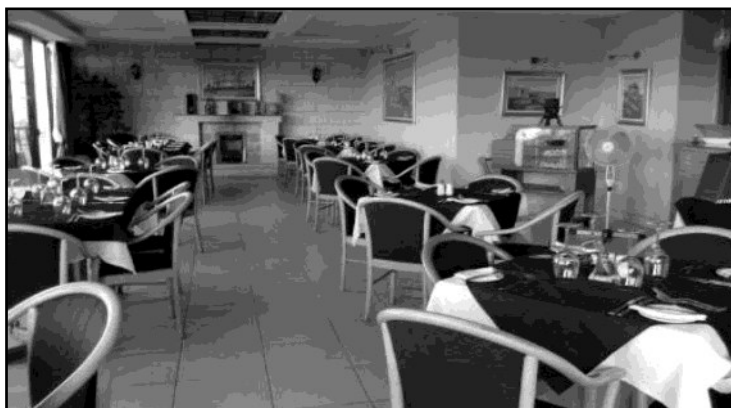
kienu pilastri u li żgur li n-nuqqas tagħhom ser jinħass. Is-Sur John Schembri (Ġanni) li għal ħafna snin serva bħala Direttur - bniedem li flimkien mal-familja tiegħu kien jagħti saħħtu għas-soċjetà tagħna u li kien ta' karattru serju u fl-istess waqt dħuli. Riċentament tliet wkoll lis-Sur Anthony Caruana (il-Huttu) li serva għal snin twal ħafna fil-kumitat f'diversi karigi u li għal żmien twil ħafna kien ukoll bandist. Toni kien ta' eżempju kbir għalina bl-impenn u d-dedikazzjoni li kellu lejn l-għaqda tagħna, tista' tgħid sal-aħħar ta' ħajtu. Jagħtihom il-Mulej il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem u nagħti l-kondoljanzi tiegħi lill-familji u lill-qraba tagħhom.

Is-soċjetà tagħna f'dawn iż-żminijiet koroh li għaddejjin minnhom kienet reżiljenti u fejn setgħet komplet taħdem għax din hija għaqda ħajja.

Grazzi lil kulhadd u l-festa t-tajba.



Heggu lil uliedkom jitgħallmu l-Mużika mal-Banda Imperial



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Re: Cycling Songs

Geoff Thomas

Music Teacher



Each year, I endeavour to find a musical topic that will be informative and fun for you to read and equally as much fun for me to write. In recent years I have occasionally dwelt on morbid topics including the more unusual deaths of composers and of operatic characters but, this year, we all need something uplifting. We have lived through eighteen months of fear, loss, and discomfort; we have lost and missed both friends and family.

So, when love does not lift us up where we belong, what does? For me, it's always music. There is music to put you 'in the mood'. What music do I turn to when I need to feel the power of love, when I hate Mondays, when I need a little help from my friends, or when I don't need every day to be forever autumn. Or perhaps what music would I recommend to you so that you can enjoy your perfect day?

It doesn't matter what type of music you like, there is stirring, depressing, and everything in between. I thought about which type of less familiar music could I recommend to Band Club members, and I challenged myself to come up with a list of ten song cycles that would gladden the hearts of any music lover.

What is a song cycle? Generally a true cycle is a set of songs bound to a single narrative. There are some wonderful songs out there which I had to discount because of this, especially by Brahms, Mahler, Moniuszko, and Wolf. The first true song cycle was *An die ferne Geliebte*, by Beethoven, written in 1816. After that followed a plethora of high quality, deeply emotional song cycles; but which to choose? Remembering Carl Sagan's words (when chairing a group to choose music to send into space on Voyager1 and 2, he said that we could just send the works of J. S. Bach, but that would be boasting) I limited myself to only one cycle from any given composer. This was really tough when you consider the output, particularly, of Robert Schumann.

Next I decided to omit the really depressing, laconic, or downright miserable ones. Schubert

wrote some of the greatest songs ever written, but as a single man he went on and on about unrequited love.

Brahms's best stuff includes his *Four Serious Songs*. My favourite song by Hugo Wolf starts 'All must end that has a beginning, all things round us perish, for time is fleeting and the sun sees that all things round us perish'. See what I mean?

The Gramophone magazine published its own list of the ten best song cycles:

- Beethoven: *An die ferne Geliebte*
- Schubert: *Die schöne Müllerin*
- Schubert: *Winterreise*
- Schumann: *Dichterliebe*
- Fauré: *La bonne chanson*
- Mussorgsky: *Songs and Dances of Death*
- Britten: *Songs and Proverbs of William Blake*
- Mahler: *Kindertotenlieder*
- Messiaen: *Harawi*
- Vaughan Williams: *Songs of Travel*



Britten: *Songs and Proverbs of William Blake*

Only one of those makes my list. The Mussorgsky speaks for itself, the Mahler translates as *Songs on the Death of Children*, and *Winterreise* (Winter Journey) has twenty four songs and zero laughs. *Harawi*, a delightful modern work, is a song of love and death. These are for the already-converted.

Is there anything more modern that would appeal to a newbie? I have some favourites among the works of George Crumb (*Ancient Voices of Children, Madrigals, Apparition*), Kalevi Aho (*Chinese Songs*), Libby Larsen (*Sonnets from the Portuguese, Songs of Light and Love, & Try Me, Good King: Last Words of the Wives of Henry VIII*) not to mention Jennifer Higdon's *Civil Words*, but they would not be to everyone's taste. Schoenberg's *Das Buch der hängenden Gärten* (1909) and *Pierrot lunaire* (1912), and Boulez's *Le Marteau sans maître* (1955) are not for the faint-hearted. Henzes' *Voices* and Bernstein's *Songfest* need a much deeper understanding and acceptance of modern idioms. However, if we think outside the box, we come to the concept albums beginning, probably, with Woody Guthrie's *Dust Bowl Ballads* (so not for us here) and moving through the Nelson Riddle orchestrations, which "give each album a composerly coherence" particularly for Nat King Cole and Frank Sinatra, until we get to an absolute classic in The Beatles' *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* of 1967. This ticks all the boxes with its collection of songs written for a performance by a fictional band. This was soon followed by many other concept albums by The Moody Blues, Pink Floyd, The Nice, Jon Anderson, Rick Wakeman, and others too numerous to mention.

Which brings me to my recommended listening of song cycles for soothing or uplifting the soul. In alphabetical order I would recommend:

- *Dies Natalis* (Finzi)
- *Four Last Songs* (R. Strauss)
- *Frauenliebe und Leben* (R. Schumann)
- *Gurrelieder* (Schoenberg)
- *Les nuits d'été* (Berlioz)
- *Poème de l'amour et de la mer* (Chausson)
- *Sea Pictures* (Elgar)
- *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (The Beatles)
- *Songs of Travel* (R. Vaughan Williams)
- *Wesendonck Lieder* (Wagner)

If I've convinced you to listen to these and you enjoy song cycles my way, then try:

- *A Shropshire Lad* (Butterworth)
- *Dichterliebe* (Schumann)
- *Five Mystical Songs* (Vaughan Williams)
- *Les Illuminations* (Britten)
- *Liederkreis Op.39* (Schumann)
- *Rückert Lieder* (Mahler)
- *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* (Britten)
- *Shéhérazade* (Ravel)
- *The Juliet Letters* (Elvis Costello/Brodsky Quartet)
- *Winterreise* (Schubert)

... or, of course, anything I've mentioned in my article. Whatever your taste in music, may it bring you joy and comfort in the years to come.



R. Strauss: *Four Last Songs*



G. Mahler: *Rückert Lieder*

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Messagġ mill- Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda

Raymond Zammit

Segretarju Ġenerali - Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda

Meta qegħdin f'dak li suppost normalment ikun staġun tal-festi, minflok qegħdin f'mument partikulari f'ċirkustanzi li bidlulna n-normalità tal-ħajja attiva tas-soċjetajiet tagħna.

Għal dawn l-aħħar erbatax-il xahar, is-soċjetajiet tal-banda f'Malta u Għawdex inħakmu mill-effetti tal-COVID-19 xejn anqas minn ħaddiehor. Kulhadd iħoss l-effett fuqu minn aspetti varji iżda ħaġa komuni għal kulhadd kienet u għadha li l-festa tagħna ma nistgħux nagħmluha kif jisthoqqilha u kif nixtiquha.

F'Marzu tas-sena 2020 bdejna bil-ħasda tal-COVID-19 u bdejna nidħlu fi drawwiet ġodda li kkundizzjonawna mhux ftit. Esperjenzajna kif nistgħu naħdmu mhux bil-mod tas-soltu.

Is-Sibt 23 ta' Jannar 2021 komplejna b'ħasda oħra. L-għaqda tilfet wiehed minna, membru li l-għaqda u kull wiehed minna kien iħares lejha bħala sors ta' informazzjoni, faraġ u ta' għajnunja. JC, kif kien l-aktar magħruf, kien maħbub u rrispettat u jibqa' ikona tal-għaqda għas-servizz inkondizzjonat li kien jagħti lil kulhadd.

Meta f'Settembru hu stess kien proponieni biex nehodlu postu għax kien iddeċieda li jieqaf, mal-ewwel ħassejt il-piż tal-kariga iżda niftakar kliemu stess meta inkoraġġieni biex naccetta, basta naħdem flimkien mal-membri tal-Eżekuttiv u mal-membri kollha tas-soċjetajiet imsieħba. Kien jemmen fil-kollektiv u li kulhadd jagħti s-sehem tiegħu. Lil JC, l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda sellmitlu kif kien

xieraq u se nibqgħu niftakruh għall-ġid u x-xogħol li wettaq b'risq is-soċjetajiet li tant kien iħobb.

Kieku dan iż-żmien kien żmien normali ta' festi, konna nkunu qegħdin fl-aqwa tat-thejjijiet, madanakollu l-ħsieb dwar il-festa ma naqasx. Anke l-għaqda tagħna, kif tafu, zammet il-festa fuq nett fl-aġenda tagħha. L-Eżekuttiv hu konxju tar-responsabbiltà li kull soċjetà mxiet biha f'dak kollu li rnexxielhom jagħmlu u dan nirrikonoxxuh bis-shiħ. Flimkien mas-soċjetajiet kollha membri, tant ħdimna għall-ġid tal-festa Maltija biex tkun dejjem ta' suċċess, tant li qed nistennew b'herqa u b'fiduċja li l-festa Maltija tiġi rikonoxxuta bħala Wirt Intangibbli fil-Lista Rappreżentattiva tal-Umanità tal-UNESCO.

Kif dejjem heġġigna hekk ukoll qed inkomplu nagħmlu, sabiex sakemm jasal iż-żmien li nkunu nistgħu naħdmu u nagħtu sehemna f'dak kollu li s-soċjetà s-soltu tagħmel, irridu nibqgħu b'saqajna mal-art u b'rasna fuq għonqna, kif ngħidu bil-Malti, billi nsegwu l-istruzzjonijiet tal-awtoritajiet tal-pajjiż biex jirnexxilna naslu fejn nixtiequ.

Nawgura lill-membri kollha tas-soċjetà kif ukoll il-poplu fil-komunità, ħidma fejjieda b'risq il-ġid tal-istess komunità li ngħixu fiha u tal-fraternità bandistika.



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Messagġ mill-Kunsill Reġjonali Tramuntana

Anton (Anthony) Mifsud
President - Reġjun Tramuntana



Għezieħ hbieb, nibda billi nawguralkom il-festa t-tajba.

Ir-Reġjun Tramuntana (Kunsill Reġjonali Tramuntana)

huwa magħmul minn tnax-il lokalità, u l-Mellieħa huwa raħal u membru importanti mir-reġjun tagħna, flimkien mal-lokalitajiet tal-Imdina, Had-Dingli, Hal Għargħur, l-Imgarr, il-Mosta, in-Naxxar, ir-Rabat, Pembroke, San Pawl il-Baħar, is-Swieqi u l-Imtarfa. Ir-reġjun jaħdem biex jgħin lill-kunsilli lokali f'oqsma differenti.

Fil-passat ir-reġjun organizza avvenimenti edukattivi u kulturali ta' skala kbira. Fl-2018, fil-220 anniversarju tal-wasla tal-Frañċiżi f'Malta, ir-Reġjun Tramuntana organizza l-ikbar rianimazzjoni li qatt inżamm f'Malta. 'Il fuq minn 500 rianimatur, li ġew minn 'il fuq minn 18-il pajjiż, ħadu sehem f'diversi avvenimenti li fakkru l-wasla tal-Frañċiżi fil-Mellieħa, u l-mixja mill-Mellieħa sal-Mosta u l-Imdina. Membri mill-komunità tagħna ngħaqdu ma' dan l-avveniment tal-istorja ħajja li wera battalji ewlenin, kif ukoll ħajja mhux militari bħal

'evening camp life'. Il-Historical Re-Enactment Group of Malta ddeskrivew dan l-avveniment bħala "aspett verament edukattiv u kulturali għall-pubbliku, li jipprovdi għarfien dwar l-istorja tagħna, il-kultura u d-drawwiet tal-passat tagħna, kostumi u l-mod ta' ħajja."

Dan huwa preċiżament dak li attivitajiet organizzati, koordinati u ffinanzjati mir-reġjun jimmiraw li jagħmlu. Dawn jimmiraw li jinvolvu l-komunità lokali f'attivitajiet kulturali u edukattivi, jipprovdu divertiment u jhegħghom biex jieħdu parti huma stess flimkien ma' nies li mhumiex neċessarjament mir-reġjun. Ir-reġjun, għalhekk, jorganizza attivitajiet għaž-żgħažagħ bħal-proġett tal-Y-Engage, attivitajiet sportivi differenti bħall-Winter Extreme Triathlon, u avvenimenti għall-komunità bħall-Festival tal-Baned u Nar. F'Diċembru tal-2019, organizzajna t-tieni edizzjoni ta' Reġjun Tramuntana - 'The Malta International Christmas Choir Festival'. Tnejn u għoxrin kor ħadu sehem f'diversi kunċerti miftuħin għall-pubbliku Malti li nżammu fil-knejjes tagħna, fosthom tal-Mellieħa. Fil-Mellieħa, flimkien mal-grupp tal-iscouts Mellieħi, qed intellgħu kors ta' kif wieħed jibni kajak (kenura) tal-injam.

Bħala l-President ta' Reġjun Tramuntana,



Rianimazzjoni fl-okkażjoni tal-220 anniversarju tal-wasla tal-Frañċiżi f'Malta



Attivitajiet sportivi



The Malta International Christmas Choir Festival

dejjem hassejt il-ħtieġa li naħdmu fil-qrib mal-komunità, u nemmen bis-sħiħ li l-għaqdijiet volontarji jagħtu l-hajja u jsaħħu lill-komunità. Is-socjetà tagħkom tghaqqad lil raħalkom, issaħħaħlu l-identità, ittih pjaċir bil-mużika tagħha, kif ukoll tghallem liż-żgħażaġh u tfal tagħna s-sabiħ tal-mużika. Bħala reġjun, nemmu li aħna għandna ngħinu u nsaħħu dan u kien b'hekk li bħala reġjun qbilna li ngħinu lis-socjetajiet tal-baned bħalkom biex jilħqu l-komunità iktar imbiegħda miċ-ċentru, kif ukoll daww il-lokalitajiet fejn m'hemmx baned. Sfortunatament, l-imbierka COVID-19 waqqfitalna temporanjament dan il-proġett.

Dan mhuwiex l-unika proġett li għandna. Qegħdin naħdmu fuq diversi binarji biex nilħqu il-komunità. Fost dawn il-proġetti għandna l-Festival tal-Baned u Nar, li qed naħdmu sabiex jittella' fl-ewwel ġimagħtejn t'Ottubru. Nisperaw li, kif jgħid il-Malti, il-borma toqgħod

fuq tlieta. Dan ser ikun it-tielet tentattiv biex jittella' dan il-festival, li għalkemm fuq skala ridotta, xorta waħda ser iġib flimkien il-baned kollha tar-Regjun kif ukoll il-kmamar u l-għaqdijiet tan-nar. Fis-17 ta' Settembru ser inkunu qegħdin invaraw l-ewwel ktieb reġjonali tagħna. Dan il-ktieb, "Colours of The North", huwa bizzilla ta' rakkonti minn numru ta' residenti tagħna li rrakkuntaw l-istorja tar-Regjun bl-esperjenzi tagħhom. Ser inkunu qed nagħmlu serata mtellgħa mill-istess komunità reġjonali u l-hiliet tagħha. Għat-tieni darba, ir-Regjun ser ikun qed jilqa' l-ewwel tas-sena l-għdida b'salut ta' loġħob tan-nar mil-lokalitajiet tagħna. Inħossu li wara l-ewwel esperjenza, għandna nkomplu biha u nsaħħuha.

Nagħlaq dan il-messaġġ billi għal darba oħra nawgura lill-Mellehin kollha l-festa t-tajba u nirringrazzjakom tax-xogħol siewi li twettqu f'din il-komunità.

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Djarju 2020 - 2021

31 t'Awwissu 2020 – Kunċert ta' daqq ta' marċi minn fuq il-bejt tal-każin mill-Banda Imperial.

6 ta' Settembru 2020 – B'inizjattiva tal-Kummissjoni Żgħażaġh, tinholoq atmosfera ta' briju bid-daqq ta' marċi minn grupp ta' bandisti żgħażaġh tal-Banda Imperial minn fuq il-bejt tal-każin.

7 ta' Settembru 2020 – Fin-nuqqas ta' ċelebrazzjonijiet esterni ta' lejlet il-festa tal-Vitorja, il-Banda Imperial għamlet kunċert fuq il-bejt tal-każin fejn indaqq l-Innu ad unur Marija Bambina, dejjem fir-rispett shiħ tal-protokoll tas-saħħa marbuta mal-pandemija tal-COVID-19.



19 ta' Settembru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' Jane Stellini, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqqet fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

25 ta' Settembru 2020 – L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial ħadet hsieb il-preparamenti loġistiċi sabiex, fir-rispett shiħ tal-protokoll tas-saħħa marbuta mal-pandemija tal-COVID-19, setgħet issir il-laqqha ġenerali tal-Kunsill tal-Għaqda

Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda fil-Pjazza tas-Santwarju wara qbil mal-Arcipriet tal-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa, il-Kanonku Dun Joe Caruana. Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għal din l-istess laqgħa. Fl-istess laqgħa, is-Surmast Direttur tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial, Mro Anthony Borg, kien preżentat b'certifikat mill-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda wara li temm b'suċċess il-kors ta' tliet snin *Diploma in Wind Band Studies* mal-Università ta' Malta.

9 t'Ottubru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' Henry Vella, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqqet fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

10 t'Ottubru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' Joseph Caruana, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqqet fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

29 t'Ottubru 2020 sal-5 ta' Ġunju 2021 – Il-Każin Imperial reġa' kien bil-bibien magħluqa minħabba l-pandemija tal-COVID-19 fuq direttivi mahruġa mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa Pubblika.

14 ta' Novembru 2020 – Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għall-quddiesa fil-Konkattedral ta' San Ġwann, il-Belt Valletta, fl-okkażjoni tal-festa ta' Santa Ċecilja, organizzata mill-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda.

15 ta' Novembru 2020 – Giet organizzata quddiesa fil-Knisja Arcipretali tal-Mellieħa għal ruħ il-mejtin kollha tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial. F'din il-quddiesa ħa sehem il-Kor Imperial. Minħabba l-imxija tal-COVID-19, il-korteo għaċ-ċimiterju li s-soltu jsir wara l-quddiesa kien imħassar.



4 ta' Diċembru 2020 – Membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv attendew għal quddiesa li saret għal ruħ Victor Fenech, membru tas-Socjetà.

17 ta' Diċembru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' Louis Borg, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh waqt il-funeral.

18 ta' Diċembru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' John Schembri, membru tas-Socjetà li għal żmien twil serva wkoll fil-Kumitat Direttiv f'diversi karigi, fosthom ta' direttur. Il-Banda u l-Kor Imperial tawh l-aħħar tislma u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh waqt il-funeral.

19 ta' Diċembru 2020 – Sar il-funeral ta' Kristinu Mifsud, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh waqt il-funeral.

13 ta' Jannar 2021 – Is-Surmast Direttur attenda għal laqgħa virtwali organizzata mill-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda dwar il-Festival Nazzjonali tal-Baned.

14 ta' Jannar 2021 – Membru tal-Kumitat Direttiv attenda għal laqgħa virtwali organizzata mill-Aġenzija Żgħażaġh b'rabta mal-iskema ta' fondi "It-Taħriġ Mużikali taż-Żgħażaġh fil-Każini tal-Banda 2021" amministrata mill-istess Aġenzija Żgħażaġh u l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda.

24 ta' Jannar 2021 – Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendew għall-funeral tas-Sur Joseph C. Azzopardi, ex Segretarju Ġenerali tal-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda, li sar il-Birgu.

25 ta' Jannar 2021 – Membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv attendew għal laqgħa virtwali organizzata mill-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda dwar l-użu tad-database tal-mużiċisti.

26 ta' Frar 2021 – Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għal-laqgħa ġenerali tal-Kunsill tal-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda li saret f'Dar il-Mediterran għall-Konferenzi, il-Belt Valletta.

5 t'April 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Ninu Mifsud, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh waqt il-funeral.

21 t'April 2021 – Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għaċ-ċerimonja fejn gie mniedi l-proġett ta' riġenerazzjoni tal-Pjazza tal-Mellieħa mill-Ministru għat-Trasport, l-Infrastruttura u l-Proġetti Kapitali l-Onor. Ian Borg u l-Ministru għat-Turiżmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur l-Onor. Clayton Bartolo.

31 ta' Mejju 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Carmel Borg, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh

waqt il-funeral.

21 ta' Ġunju 2021 – Wara nuqqas ta' kwazi tmien xhur, reġġu bdew il-kunċerti ta' kull ġimgħa tal-Banda Imperial fuq il-bejt tal-każin fir-rispett sħiħ tal-protokoll tas-saħħa marbuta mal-pandemija tal-COVID-19.



26 ta' Ġunju 2021 – Saret is-seduta ġenerali tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial fis-sala ewlenija tal-Każin skont il-protokoll tas-saħħa. Matul din il-laqgħa nġhata rendikont tal-hidma fi hdan l-għaqda tul is-sena 2020.

28 ta' Ġunju 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Lucy Gauci, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

2 ta' Lulju 2021 – Afternoon Bingo & Tea fis-sala ewlenija tal-Każin Imperial organizzata mill-Kummissjoni Banda u Kor.

20 ta' Lulju 2021 – Membru mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għaċ-ċerimonja fejn l-Onor. Ministru Dr Miriam Dalli u l-Onor. Segretarju Parlamentari Dr Clifton Grima ipprezentaw l-kuntratti relatati mal-iskema tal-pannelli fotovoltajċi amministrata mill-Ministeru għall-Energija, l-Intrapriża u l-Iżvilupp Sostenibbli.



23 ta' Lulju 2021 – Afternoon Bingo & Tea fis-sala ewlenija tal-Każin Imperial organizzata mill-Kummissjoni Banda u Kor.

28 ta' Lulju 2021 – Delegazzjoni mill-Kumitat Direttiv attendiet għaċ-ċerimonja li saret f'Bieb is-Sultan f'Haż-Żabbar fejn giet imtelligħa l-polza l-polza biex tiddetermina l-partecipazzjoni tal-baned waqt il-Festival Nazzjonali tal-Baned li se jsir fil-Kottonera. Fl-istess ċerimonja, gie mħabbar li l-mużiċist tal-Banda Imperial Carl Borg kien fost l-erba' rebbieħa tal-kompetizzjoni għall-kompożizzjonijiet originali minn kompożituri lokali mnedija b'mod kongunt mill-Fondazzjoni Kottonera u l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda.



30 ta' Lulju 2021 – Il-Kummissjoni Żgħażaġħ organizzat fenkata f'Misraħ il-Parroċċa quddiem il-Kažin Imperial.

11 t'Awwissu 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Anthony Caruana, bandist mal-Banda Imperial għal 'il fuq minn tmenin sena u li serva wkoll fil-Kumitat Direttiv f'diversi karigi, fosthom ta' kaxxier. Il-Banda u l-Kor Imperial tawh l-aħħar tislma u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawh waqt il-funeral.

13 t'Awwissu 2021 – Afternoon Bingo & Tea fis-sala ewlenija tal-Kažin Imperial organizzata mill-Kummissjoni Banda u Kor.

18 t'Awwissu 2021 – L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial organizzat riċeviment biex tiringrazzja lil Dun Mario Dimech fit-tmiem tal-hidma pastorali tiegħu fil-Parroċċa Arċipretali tal-Mellieħa u tawguralu għall-esperjenza pastorali ġdida li gie mitlub iwettaq fil-Parroċċa ta' Haż-Żebbuġ.



20 t'Awwissu 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Lorenza Borg, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

23 t'Awwissu 2021 – Sar il-funeral ta' Duminka Buttigieg, membru tas-Socjetà. Indaqget fanfara u membri tal-Kumitat Direttiv akkumpanjawha waqt il-funeral.

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“Wiehed mill-mezzi l-izjed tajba biex naslu li nbiddlu hajjitna m'huwiex haġa ohra hlief ir-rcita tar-Rużarju.” - Papa Ljun XIII

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Nifirħu lil...

- Il-membri onorarji tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial għall-ħatra tagħhom fil-Kabinet il-gdid: l-**Onorevoli Clayton Bartolo** li ġie maħtur Ministru għat-Turiżmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumaturi, l-**Onorevoli Evarist Bartolo** li ġie konfermat Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej, u l-**Onorevoli Dr Michael Farrugia** li ġie maħtur Ministru għall-Anzjani u l-Anzjanità Attiva. Nawgurawlihom ħidma ta' suċċess fl-oqsma rispettivi li ġew fdati lilhom.
- **Carl Borg**, membru tal-Banda Imperial, għas-suċċess miksub fil-kompetizzjoni internazzjonali "Say it in 60 seconds" organizzata mill-"Oxford Festival of Arts". Il-kompożizzjoni ta' Carl kienet waħda mir-rebbieħa f'din il-kompetizzjoni tant prestigjuża. Carl hu wkoll wieħed minn fost l-erba' rebbieħa tal-kompetizzjoni għall-kompożizzjonijiet oriġinali minn kompożituri lokali mnedija b'mod kongunt mill-Fondazzjoni Kottonera u l-Għaqda Nazzjonali Każini tal-Banda. Il-kompożizzjoni ta' Carl bl-isem ta' "Grajjet il-Bastjun" se tkun qed tiġi esegwita waqt il-Festival Nazzjonali tal-Baned li se jkun qed isir f'Settembru 2021 u se tkun qed tiġi rrekordjata mill-Banda tal-Forzi Armati ta' Malta. Prosit Carl!
- **Kate Attard, Elisa Borg u Damian Vella**, tliet bandisti tal-Banda Imperial, li ġew magħżula sabiex jiffurmaw parti mill-'Malta Youth Orchestra'.
- **Mark Anthony Bartolo**, membru tal-Banda Imperial, li temm b'suċċess il-kors B.Mus. (Hons.) mogħti mid-Dipartiment għall-Istudju fil-Mużika fi ħdan l-Università ta' Malta.
- Dawk kollha li għamlu suċċess fl-istudji jew f'xi dixxiplina partikolari li jipprattikaw u nawgurawlihom iktar suċċess f'dak kollu li jaħdmu għalih.

*Il-President u l-Kumitat tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial
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Niftakru f'ħutna li ħallewna

Jane Stellini
18 ta' Settembru 2020

Henry Vella
5 t'Ottubru 2020

Joseph Caruana
7 t'Ottubru 2020

Victor Fenech
23 ta' Novembru 2020

Louis Borg
13 ta' Diċembru 2020

John Schembri
14 Diċembru 2020

Kristinu Mifsud
16 ta' Diċembru 2020

Brian Johnstone
16 ta' Marzu 2021

Ninu Mifsud
1 t'April 2021

Carmel Borg
30 ta' Mejju 2021

Lucy Gauci
25 ta' Ġunju 2021

Sheena Halface
9 ta' Lulju 2021

Anthony Caruana
8 t'Awwissu 2021

Lorenza Borg
17 t'Awwissu 2021

Duminka Buttigieg
19 t'Awwissu 2021

Agħtihom o Mulej il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem!

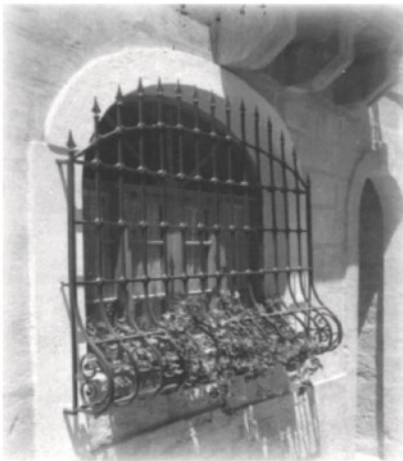
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Tislima lil Ġanni u Toni

Dr John Baptist Gauci

Bħal daż-żmien sena niftakarni poġġejt bilqiegħda biex nikteb kelmtajn sabiex insellem lil tlett iħbieb kbar, parti mill-familja tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial, li kienu marru jiltaqgħu mal-Hallieq. Qed nirreferi għal Toni Grech, Charlie Borg u Carmen Cini. Qajla għaddieli minn moħħi li, sena wara, b'qalb tqila kont ser inkun qed nerga' nagħmel l-istess; din id-darba b'tislima lil Ġanni Schembri u Toni Caruana. Dawn kollha huma nies, ħbieb, li kelli x-xorti li niltaqa' magħhom meta kont għadni żgħir, kbirt mogħni bil-pariri u l-eżempji tagħhom, għallmuni x'inhu l-altruizmu li jikkarakterizza u jsostni x-xogħol volontarju, u dejjem tawni kelma ta' kuragg' biex inkompli nistinka u naħdem, kemm għalija personali, kif ukoll għall-ġid tal-għaqda li tant kellhom għal qalbhom.

Ġanni kien karattru li jiġbdek lejħ, dejjem bitbissima fuq fomm, qalb tad-deheb, ħabrieki, ta' ftit kliem u ma jafx x'inhu ftaħir. Kelma nieqsa aħjar minn waħda żejda, dak kien qaddisu. Niftakru bilqiegħda madwar mejda, tista' tgħid kuljum wara l-quddies tas-6.30pm, ma' xi ħabib jew tnejn jieħu tazza te. Meta kien jirnexxili ninżel f'it kmieni qabel il-kunċert, kont nieħu gost inpoġġi f'it mal-mejda hdejh, ngħidu kelmtajn ta' malajr qabel ngħidlu "Ġann, ħa mmur nagħmel żewġ noti", u hu jwieġeb "Mela, hekk għandu jkun", u naħrab 'il fuq. Il-Hadd filgħaxija, imbagħad, hu u missieri kienu jintasbu fuq l-istess mejda, jieħdu flixkun birra flimkien u jirrakuntaw xi grajja. Jaf kienu jitekellmu fuq ir-raba' li t-tnejn kienu jaħdmu, jew inkella jtarrfu xi storja li tfakkarhom fil-passat. Sehem il-Banda Imperial fil-karnival ta' Malta fis-sebghinijiet, l-organizzazzjoni tal-Festival Vokalissima fl-istess snin u l-bini tal-



Ritratt tal-Kumitat Direttiv għas-snin 2018-2019.

Anthony Caruana qed bilqiegħda quddiem fl-ewwel post fuq ix-xellug, filwaqt li John Schembri qed fuq wara fit-tielet post mix-xellug.

kazin il-ġdid kienu ta' spiss jissemew meta kont inkun magħhom jien. Nistqarr li meta mietet martu Vivie ħabta u sabta, Ġanni ħassha sew it-telfa tagħha allavolja naħseb li kien jipprova ma jurix. Għad illi ċert li kull rokna tal-kazin kienet tfakkru fiha, baqa' jiġi l-kazin regolari sakemm saħħtu baqgħet ittiħ. Meta f'dawn l-aħħar snin ergajt dħalt fil-Kumitat Direttiv, Ġanni kien hemm kif kien hemm għal bosta snin qabli, iżda din id-darba bħala Direttur. Lanqas konna nilħqu ngħidu li għandna bżonn nagħmlu xi ħaġa fil-kazin, kont tarah imidd idu għax-xogħol, jara kif jagħmel biex mill-aħjar u mingħajr telf ta' żmien, dak li jkolli jsir ikun lest. Mhux l-ewwel darba u tnejn li kien iġorr l-istandard tas-soċjetà, jew quddiem il-banda jew inkella waqt xi purċissjoni. Kien ikun fis-seba' sema, miexi b'pass meqjus u b'refġha soda. Ġieli kont immur nittantah f'it, nistaqsih "Kollox sew, Ġann?", u hu b'għajnejħ jixegħlu u b'daħka jserraħli moħħi. Hafna mid-drabi, l-istandard kien iġorru hu waqt il-funerali tal-membri tal-għaqda. Sfortunatament ma kelli x'ic-ċans li nkun



preżenti għall-funeral tiegħu għax kont 'il bogħod minn xtutna f'dawk il-ġranet. Ġanni għadda għal haġġa aħjar nhar l-14 ta' Diċembru 2020 fl-età ta' 77 sena.

Lil Toni l-Huttu nafu minn dejjem idoqq il-kurunetta mal-Banda Imperial. Hu wiehed minn dawk il-ftit bandisti li baqgħu attivi fil-banda mill-ewwel ġurnata li nġhaqadt magħha jien madwar 35 sena ilu. Ovvjament, hu kien hemm haġġa qabli għax kien beda jdoqq fis-snin tletin meta kien għadu daqsxejn ta' ġuvnott. Niftakar hażin hażin l-ewwel kuncert li għamilt mal-banda, fis-sala tat-tieni sular tal-każin (għax ma kienx hemm oħra), denbi taħt il-blata, qarmuċ ta' disa' snin imwerwer li jagħmel nota hażina, imma ferħan se jtir li nġhaqad mal-banda wara sentejn ta' studju. Toni hemm kien, ftit warajja, fit-tarf tal-filliera tal-kurunetti. Maż-żmien indunajt li dak kien postu, u bix-xieraq. Ġieli ġie jkellimni, u meta bdejt inrabbi ftit tal-kunfidenza, kont nipprova naqbad diskursata miegħu. Sirt naf, pjuttost riċenti, li Toni mhux dejjem kien idoqq il-kurunetta. Kien beda mal-banda bil-baritonu u meta fis-snin ta' wara l-gwerra haġġa bandisti emigraw, il-Banda Imperial kellha bżonn min idoqq il-kurunetta, u kien hawn li Toni biddel l-istrument. Meta dhalt fil-Kumitat Direttiv għall-ewwel darba, kien hemm mal-istess mejda. L-għaqda kien

iħobbha, kienet il-mimmi t'għajnejh. Nismagħhom jirrakkuntaw kemm kien haġġa sabiex seta' jinxtara l-każin l-antik, jitwaqqa' u jinbena l-każin il-ġdid. Għad li kien żmien diffiċli, missirijietna xejn ma qatgħu qalbhom biex jidhlu għal biċċa xogħol bħal din li l-ispiza tagħha żgur li ma kinitx waħda żgħira. Imma llum, grazzi għalihom, l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tista' tgħid u tkun kburiya li għandha l-każin propjetà tagħha, għad-differenza ta' każini oħra madwar Malta. Meta beda jagħfas iż-żmien fuqu, Toni naqqas xi ftit mill-banda għax is-saħħa ma tibqax li tkun, speċjalment mill-marċi. Imma sakemm seta' baqa' jiġi għall-kuncerti tal-banda u kien propju xi erba' snin ilu li naħseb li smajtu l-aħħar darba jdoqq il-kurunetta waqt festin żgħir li l-banda għamlitlu għal għeluq sninu. Il-Banda Imperial sellmitlu għall-aħħar darba waqt il-funeral tiegħu nhar il-11 t'Awwissu 2021, tlett ijiem wara li Toni halla din id-dinja fl-età ta' 97 sena.

L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial u l-komunità kollha Melleħija għandhom dejn kbir ma' Ġanni u Toni u ma' nies oħra li bħalhom hadmu qatigh u mingħajr hłas sabiex l-arti, il-mużika u t-tradizzjonijiet jissahħu u jkomplu jwarrdu. Iż-żminijiet jinbidlu u l-volontarjat iġġaddi minn fażijiet; bħalissa żgur li mhux għaddej minn fażi



mill-aqwa. L-għaqdiet volontarji tagħna għandhom bżonn ħafna iktar nies li lesti li jagħtu minn ħinhom, xi minn daqqiet b'sagrifiċċju personali, sabiex dak il-wirt imprezzabbli li ħallewna missirijietna nindukrawh sew, inħarsuh, nibzghu għalih, insostnuh u nkattruh qabel ma jkun tard wisq, qabel ma ngħidu li xi darba f'Malta kellna l-għaqdiet volontarji imma li dawn mietu mewta

naturali. B'hekk verament inkunu qed niringrazzjaw lil nies bħal Ġanni u Toni u nuruhom ir-rispett tagħna, billi nkomplu naħdmu b'risq l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial li huma kellhom tant għal qalbhom, u b'risq il-gid ingenerali tas-soċjetà Maltija.

Il-Mulej jagħtihom il-mistrieħ ta' dejjem kif tassew jixirqilhom u jagħti s-sabar lill-familji tagħhom.



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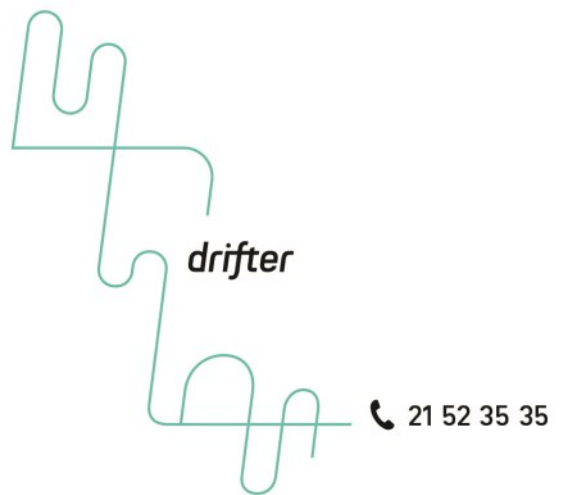
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Programm t'Attivitajiet

organizzati mill-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial
fl-okkażjoni tal-Festa ad unur ta'

Marija Bambina

Patruna tal-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa 2021

It-Tnejn 30 t'Awwissu 2021

7.30 p.m. Kunċert ġenerali tal-Banda u l-Kor Imperial taħt id-direzzjoni tas-Surmast Direttur Mro Anthony Borg.

It-Tlieta 31 t'Awwissu 2021

6.30 p.m. L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tiegħu sehem fiċ-ċelebrazzjoni reliġjuża fil-Knisja Arċipretali tal-Mellieħa fl-okkażjoni ta' "Jum l-Għaqdiet Ċiviċi".

Il-Hamis 2 ta' Settembru 2021

6.00 p.m. Tombla speċjali organizzata mill-Kummissjoni Banda u Kor tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial.

Il-Ġimgħa 3 ta' Settembru 2021

8.00 p.m. Ikla tal-festa f'Misraħ il-Parroċċa.

It-Tnejn 6 ta' Settembru 2021

7.30 p.m. Programm ta' marċi mill-Banda Imperial minn fuq il-bejt tal-każin.

It-Tlieta 7 ta' Settembru 2021

9.00 p.m. Il-Banda u l-Kor Imperial taħt id-Direzzjoni tas-Surmast Direttur Mro Anthony Borg jeseġwixxu l-Innu lil Marija Bambina minn fuq il-bejt tal-każin.



Programme of Activities

organised by the Imperial Band Club
for the feast in honour of

Our Lady of Victories

Patron Saint of Mellieħa

Monday 30th August 2021

7.30 p.m. General rehearsal by the Imperial Band and Choir under the direction of Mro Anthony Borg, the Club's Musical Director.

Tuesday 31st August 2021

6.30 p.m. The Imperial Band Club will be participating in a Holy Mass in the Mellieħa Parish Church on the occasion of the day dedicated to civic societies.

Thursday 2nd September 2021

6.00 p.m. A special bingo night organised by the Band and Choir Commission within the Imperial Band Club.

Friday 3rd September 2021

8.00 p.m. A dinner on the occasion of the feast in the Mellieħa Parish Square.

Monday 6th September 2021

7.30 p.m. A concert of band marches by the Imperial Band from the Club's roof.

Tuesday 7th September 2021

9.00 p.m. The Imperial Band and Choir will perform the Hymn in Honour of Our Lady of Victories from the Club's roof under the direction of Mro Anthony Borg .



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45 sena ta' servizz lill-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa *Is-sagrigan Christopher Bartolo*

Kien propju nhar l-1 ta' Mejju 1976, festa ta' San Ġużepp Haddiem, li l-Kappillan tal-Mellieħa ta' dak iż-żmien, Monsinjur Ġużeppi Schembri, habbar li l-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa kellha sagrigan ġdid. Kien zaġġuħ ta' sbatax-il sena, iben Lippu u Mikelina Bartolo. Christopher ma kienx wiċċ ġdid fil-knisja tal-Mellieħa. Kellu diġà sitt snin ta' taħriġ minn missieru stess li kien is-sagrigan dak iż-żmien.

L-ewwel snin xejn ma kienu faċli. Minbarra x-xogħol ta' kuljum li jkun hemm bżonn fil-knisja, dak iż-żmien kien għaddej xogħol estensiv ta' skultura fil-ġebel u invjar tal-istess knisja, xogħol li jaqla' hafna trabijiet u ħmieġ. Imma Christopher ma qatax qalbu u kompla jsaħħaħ l-imħabba li kellu lejn il-knisja u x-xogħol ta' sagrigan. Maż-żmien ħa l-inizjattiva li fil-ħin liberu tiegħu, jitgħallem diversi snajja' u arti, sabiex, fejn u meta jkun hemm bżonn, ikun jista' jkompli jsebbaħ u jzejjen il-knisja bl-aħjar mod possibbli. L-arrangamenti tal-fjuri li joħloq huma biċċa xogħol artistika, bħalma jistgħu jixhdu l-eluf ta' nies li jżuru l-Artal tar-Ripożizzjoni (jew kif inhu magħruf aħjar, is-Sepulkru) fil-granet ta' Hamis ix-Xirka u l-Ġimgħa l-Kbira.

Kif jirrakkonta Christopher stess, l-iktar esperjenza li jibqa' għożż tul is-snin kollha ta' servizz fil-Parroċċa hi ż-żjara li l-Papa Ġwanni Pawlu II għamel fis-Santwarju Nazzjonali tal-Madonna tal-Mellieħa fl-1990. Kienet okkażjoni unika fejn seta' jara mill-viċin il-mibki San Ġwanni Pawlu II. Madanakollu, il-festa ta' Marija Bambina li ta' kull sena tkun iċċelebrata fil-parroċċa tibqa' ċ-ċentru u l-qofol tax-xogħol kollu ta' matul is-sena. L-ghaxxa tiegħu jara li l-



Knisja Arcipretali tkun nadifa tazza, izejjinha bl-aħjar mod possibbli u jara li tkun liebsa l-isbaħ libsa, u jorganizza d-daqq tal-qniepen, dejjem bl-għajnuna ta' gruppi differenti li joffru l-għajnuna tagħhom b'mod volontarju.

Tul dawn il-45 sena ta' servizz, Christopher dejjem ra li jibni u jzomm relazzjoni tajba mal-għaqdiet volontarji li jaħdmu fil-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa. L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial hija xhud ta' dan u r-rispett reċiproku li jeżisti huwa sinjal ħaj ta' din il-ħbiberija. Christopher qatt ma qagħad lura kull meta l-Għaqda tagħna talbitu l-għajnuna u dejjem ra kif seta' jgħin bl-aħjar mod possibbli.

Il-President, il-Kumitat Direttiv, is-Surmast Direttur, il-kummissjonijiet u l-membri kollha tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial jieħdu din l-opportunità sabiex jirringrazzjaw lil Christopher tax-xogħol siewi u bla waqfien tul dawn l-aħħar 45 sena, jirringrazzjaw ukoll lil martu, liż-żewġ uliedu u l-familjari tas-sapport li jagħtuh, u jawgurawlu iktar snin ta' hidma fejjieda b'risq il-parroċċa, raħal twelidu u l-komunità kollha Melleħija. Grazzi Chris!

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Joseph Felix Cachia

“Ma, fejnu d-dqiq? Daqs mgharfa rrid.
Ghandek xi karti strazzi?
M’hemmx għalfejn hafna, anzi ftit.
Mhux tajbin tal-pitazzi.

Il-qasab, jien digà qattajt
Irqaq, dritt u bla brim.
Fraqthom irqaq, irqaq kemm stajt
Kemm tal-qaws, u anke tal-prim.

L-iktar imqass li jaqta’ rrid.
Għadu, tal-magna, fil-kexxun?
Il-ħajt li tuża biex bih tħit,
Mhux qiegħed fejn soltu jkun.”

Kokka mal-art, ftit wara ntfajt
Fuq siment mogħti l-kulur
Iktar minn siegħa naħdem qattajt.
Tal-kesħa nsejt id-dulur.

Mill-karta strazzi qtajt ‘djamant’.
Pied bi tnejn kienu l-qisien
Il-kolla nħawwad sadattant
Naħdem bla ma naħli żmien.

Għad-denb fassalt żewg strixxi twal,
Imsielet mal-għnub waħħalt.
Li nqiegħed il-qasab kien fadal,
Bil-kolla kollox kaħħalt.

Bl-imsielet li waħħaltilha,
Saret iktar femminili.
Lilha ‘Sbejħa’ bdejt ngħajtilha
Hekk iktar għogħbot lili.

Domt iktar minn siegħa biex lestejt
Bla ndunajt kif tar il-ħin
Kont hieni bix-xogħol li temmejt
U mbagħad dritt għall-Qortin.

Il-qaws qammart, bil-ħajt stirajt.
L-ingassa ressaqt ’il fuq,
Magħħa rbatt, tar-rukkell, il-ħajt.
Hallejtu xi ftit mitluq.

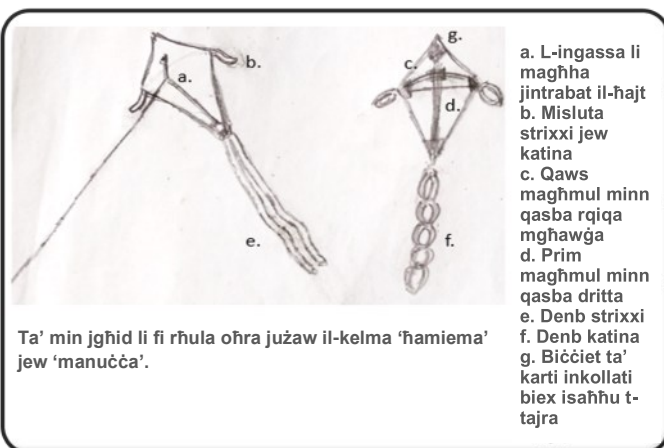
Fittixt mnejn kien jonfoħ ir-riħ
Hassejtu l-Majjistral.
Għrejt ġirja qasira kontrih
Bir-rukkell f’idi jinħall.

It-tajra nqatgħet minn mal-art.
Tiggennen kull naħa hi bdiet.
Tengħud fittixt fl-iskart,
Għal teqel fuq żewg naħiet.

Kburija mbagħad taret ’l fuq
Sħajjiltha trid tkellimni,
Minkejja li ħalqha mitbuq
Kont ċert illi tifhimni.

Għalhekk kelmtejn malajr ħażziżt
Fuq karta, ittra ktibtilha
Mal-ħajta b’toqba hemiżt
Ftit, ftit, lilha bghattilha.

Hi ‘qratha’ u tbaxxiet xi ftit
Donnha riedet troddli ħajr.
Wegibtha, “Sbejħa, bla ma rrid,
Se jkolli nnizzlek, malajr.



Ix-xemx niżlet, ġej il-lejl
Omni qed tfittixni, żgur
Ismagħħa tgħajjat, 'Guz, int ġej?'
Kontra qalbi, irrid immur.”

Kmieni l-għada, malli bebbex
Bilgri lilha ergajt tajjart
Hin insejtu, moħħi tgerfex
Għall-iskola wasalt tard.

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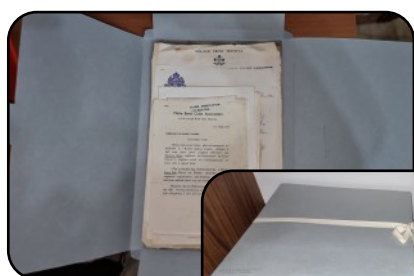
“Preserving and Communicating the Club's History”

The aims of this project were three-fold:

- 1) Devise ways how the important historical records pertaining to the Imperial Band Club could be retained, organised, preserved and permanently protected from loss, damage, or destruction.
- 2) Write a detailed history of the Imperial Band Club by making use of the minutes of meetings, letters, magazines published by the Club, photos and other available records.
- 3) Create awareness of the history of the Imperial Band Club through the setting up of an exhibition.

The project was carried out in various stages.

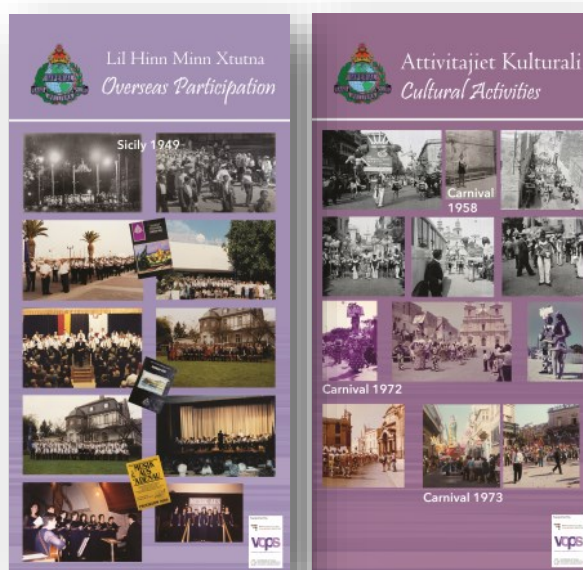
- ↪ The physical retrieval of the various minutes of meetings, correspondence, photos, magazines and posters from the Club's offices, stores and depositories.
- ↪ The appropriate recording, grouping, classification and organisation of the retrieved material.
- ↪ The appropriate storing of the material retrieved. Ms Maria Borg, an expert in the field of archiving, went meticulously through all the material to assess the damage, to stabilise all the material, and to prepare it for proper and safe storage. For this aim, the necessary material for storing and the required cabinets were bought and put in



place so as to house the archived material.



- ↪ The writing up of a faithful, detailed and complete history of the first seventy-five years of existence of the Imperial Band Club from the records available. This lengthy and painstaking task was diligently carried out by Mr Jonathan Muscat, following on the work initiated by his late father, Mr Jimmy Muscat. The end-product is a document which gives a comprehensive picture of how the Imperial Band Club evolved from its inception to the seventy-fifth anniversary.
- ↪ The communication of the history of the Club through the Club's social media platforms. This materialised through the various posts that were made throughout the project to present some interesting findings arising from documents and photos that were retrieved.
- ↪ The setting up of an exhibition that recounts the main events of the Imperial Band Club, illustrated by photos and other historical documents. This exhibition was printed on light material which will make it possible to be transported to other places if requested. This is currently housed in the ground floor of the club.



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'Il Quddiem

Onor. Clayton Bartolo

Ministru għat-Turiżmu u l-Protezzjoni tal-Konsumatur

L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tibqa' mutur importanti biex il-lokalità tagħna tibqa' fost l-aktar sinjura f'dik li hija kultura u devozzjoni lejn il-patrona tagħna Marija Bambina.

Għal sena oħra, b'għafsa ta' qalb, mhux ser jerga' jkollna l-festa li normalment issir ad unur il-Vitorja. Madanakollu, inħarsu 'l quddiem lejn dawk il-jiem li nerġgħu ngħixu l-ħajja tal-festa fl-isfond tad-daqq tal-marċi fi pjazza ħajja bin-nies.

Minkejja ż-żminijiet straordinarji li għexna fl-aħħar sena u nofs, l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial ma naqstx mill-ħidma tagħha u dan jawgura tajjeb biex din is-soċjetà mużikali tkompli tikber u tissaħħaħ.

Huma dawn il-mumentu li joħorġu l-kobor tal-volontarjat fil-komunitajiet tagħna. In-nies tal-kazini huma persuni li fis-silenzju jagħmlu xogħol imprezzabbli biex is-soċjetà Melleħija tgawdi mix-xogħol li jagħmlu niesha stess.

Għalhekk, irrid niringrazzja lill-President u l-Kumitat, is-surmast u l-bandisti u l-membri tal-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial għax-xogħol u l-appoġġ tagħhom b'risq il-Mellieħa.



Nieħu din l-okkażjoni biex nawgura l-festa t-tajba lill-Melleħin kollha.

Marija Bambina tibqa' f'qalbna ma' kull għodwa li nisbħu taħt il-barka tagħha.

Viva Maria Bambina!



L-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial tilqa' applikazzjonijiet għat-tagħlim tal-mużika mingħajr ħlas f'dawn il-kategoriji:

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Onor. Evarist Bartolo

Ministru għall-Affarijiet Barranin u Ewropej

Il-COVID-19 reġa' ħassrilna l-okkażjoni tal-festa biex niltaqgħu flimkien, ingeddu r-rabtiet u d-drawwiet tagħna fil-komunità tal-Mellieħa, u fl-istess ħin nagħtu l-impenn tagħna għall-futur.

Is-sabiħ tal-Mellieħa u tagħna l-Melleħin hu li waqt li nieħdu ħsieb l-għeruw li ġejjin minn snin twal ilu, naħdmu biex is-sigra tkompli tikber u toħroġ friegħi godda fil-futur. Fost dawk li l-izjed li jagħmlu hekk huma s-soċjetajiet mużikali tagħna li huma ferm iżjed minn każin fejn is-soltu nqattgħu ftit mill-ħin ħieles tagħna. Is-soċjetajiet mużikali tagħna għamlu u jagħmlu tant ġid kulturali u soċjali fir-raħal tagħna.

Nemmen ukoll li l-Imperial u l-La Vittoria huma eżempju tajjeb ħafna għall-oħrajn. Waqt li żammew it-tradizzjonijiet partikolari

tagħhom, sabu mexxejja bil-għaqal biżżejjed biex għelbu l-piki u l-fanatizmu u llum jirrispettaw u jaħdmu flimkien fejn hemm bżonn. L-għaxxa tiegħi nattendi xi attività fil-Mellieħa fejn nara liż-żewġ soċjetajiet jirrispettaw lil xulxin u jagħrfu t-talenti u s-suċċessi ta' xulxin.

Għandna nkunu grati lejn dawn il-mexxejja bil-għaqal u eżemplari li minbarra li jagħtu ħafna ħin u jagħmlu ħafna saġrifici personali biex jaraw is-soċjetajiet mexjin 'il quddiem, juru bil-fatti li d-differenzi u d-diversità m'għandhomx ifissru piki u ġlied kontra xulxin.

Dan huwa għaqal li għandna niċcelebrawh ħafna u naħdmu biex ngħożżuh u ngedduh.

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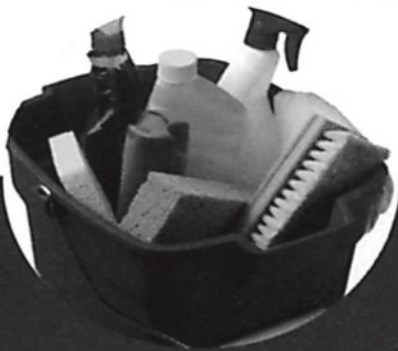
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Ministru għall-Anzjani u l-Anzjanità Attiva

Għaddiet sena oħra u għal darba oħra qed nersqu lejn il-festa ta' Marija Bambina, festa li hija ċelebrata wkoll fuq livell nazzjonali.

Għal sena oħra ma nistgħux niċcelebraw il-festa b'mod normali minħabba l-pandemija. Huwa importanti li nibqgħu prudenti u nosservaw id-direzzjonijiet maħruġa mid-Dipartiment tas-Saħħa Pubblika fl-interess tagħna u ta' persuni madwarna.

Fl-aħħar gimgħat, personalment irrealizzajt kemm hu importanti li kulhadd jieħu t-tilqima. Għandna proverbju Malti: "Għin ruħek biex Alla jgħhinek."

Tul dawn l-aħħar għexieren ta' snin dejjem kont prezenti għall-attivitajiet tal-festa organizzati fil-Mellieħa b'mod speċjali dawk organizzati mill-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial. Minkejja li nkun spiss fl-akkwati tal-Mellieħa u għand diversi ħbieb Melleħin, bħal kull sena nieħu l-opportunità biex niċcelebra l-festa mal-Melleħin ukoll. Nittama li għalkemm ħafna mill-attivitajiet mhux se jsiru, ikollu l-opportunità li niltaqa' ma' ħafna minnkom.

Għalkemm matul l-aħħar għexieren ta' snin kont nagħti għajnuniet diversi lill-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial, kemm dawk mitluba minni jew b'mod volontarju, is-sena li għaddiet rajt li s-sede tal-għaqda, flimkien ma' għaqdiet oħrajn, tgawdi minn għotjiet ta' numru ta' pannelli tax-xemx li kien qed jagħti l-Gvern ħalli jonqsu l-ispejjeż tal-użu tal-enerġija fis-sede tal-għaqda.

Filwaqt li niċcelebraw kif xieraq il-festa ta' Marija Bambina, insellmu lil dawk il-ħbieb



tagħna Mellieħin li sfortunatament ħallewna, imma li kienu minn ta' quddiem biex iferrħu lill-Melleħin u anke jifirħu magħhom.

Ejjew niċcelebraw din il-festa kemm lokali u kemm nazzjonali f'għaqda bejnietna. Ma ninsewx li l-ewwel u qabel kollox hi festa reliġjuża. Barra minn hekk hi festa lill-Madonna li hi ħafna għal qalb il-Melleħin. Imma hi wkoll festa ta' ringrazzjament lill-Madonna li pproteġiet lil pajjiżna u lill-Maltin u l-Għawdxin fi żminijiet koroh ta' gwerer u għawg iehor.

Viva Marija Bambina!

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Jawgura l-Festa t-Tajba lil Kulhadd



The State of our Mediterranean

Professor Stephen C. Calleya

University of Malta

Everyone is aware that we are living in tumultuous times. Planning ahead has become a speculative exercise like never before with so many factors influencing decision making in contemporary international relations.

Major challenges that have resulted in a completely different structure to our lifestyles in the Mediterranean include COVID-19, climate change and on-going conflicts. While these challenges are not exclusive to our Mediterranean, they are having a more severe impact in our region given the proximity of so many countries in one area and the fact that they are all unfolding simultaneously.

It is thus imperative to not only take stock of developments across the Mediterranean region but also to promote a multitude of multilateral initiatives to try and mitigate the long list of challenges we are facing. To date there have not been enough multilateral initiatives launched and implemented to try and manage more effectively the sources of instability that are unfolding continuously. The time has come to invest both the international political will and economic resources necessary to turn the page from endless conflicts and poverty towards an era characterised by peace and development.

It is very clear that the COVID-19 pandemic has changed significantly the parameters of global interaction, especially when it comes to travelling. In fact, one of the hardest hit sectors worldwide is tourism which is a principle industry in several parts of the world including the Mediterranean. An immediate clear lesson of the pandemic is the importance to diversify economic activity in order to be able to ride unexpected crises that are certain to emerge from time to time.

Another major challenge that has been with us for a lengthy period of time but is now becoming more acute is climate change. The increase in temperatures and resulting stifling heat is putting more pressure on energy grids as people seek to cope with air conditioning and other types of wellness facilities. A rising




sea level will impact negatively millions of people across the Mediterranean who today live along the sea shoreline. The unbearable living conditions will not only force changes in lifestyle from outdoor to a more indoor activity based situation but also make it much more expensive to live. While advocates of sustainable development are correct in their prescription, they must also ensure that the necessary resources to implement and enforce such an agenda are available.

The Mediterranean is also host to some of the longest on-going conflicts since the end of the Second World War. Three conflicts have dominated regional and international relations, namely the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Cyprus conflict and the Sahara conflict. Numerous diplomatic initiatives have taken place in an attempt to broker a peaceful resolution to each of these international interstate disputes but to date there has been no successful outcome in any of these cases.

In actual fact, the geo-strategic situation across the Mediterranean has today become even more volatile because decades long hostilities have now been supplemented by a series of new conflicts that have emerged in Libya, Syria and Yemen. Only a renewed multilateral approach to mediation in the Mediterranean will provide possible avenues of cooperation that prevent inter-state and sub-regional divisions from becoming permanent features of our twenty-first century Mediterranean.

We are living in a new world disorder where constant uncertainty and insecurity are a daily occurrence. It is thus essential that we plan contingencies in order to be able to adapt to the ever changing situation. If current trends continue unabated, then the quality of life in the Mediterranean will deteriorate rapidly resulting in political instability and economic recession. Such an outcome will result in making life more complicated and constrained as constant challenges require more resources to mitigate the consequences of crisis situations.



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Iż-żewġ baned Melleħin

Rev. Mons. Dun Mosè Debono

Fil-Mellieħa għandna żewġ baned: is-Società Filarmonica La Vittoria u l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial. Is-Società Filarmonica La Vittoria twaqqfet fl-1907, u l-Għaqda Mużikali Imperial twaqqfet fl-1930. Matul dan iż-żmien kollu sal-lum, li tkun bandist f'waħda minn dawn iż-żewġ baned kienet, u għadha, unur, kemm għall-bandist, kemm għall-familja tiegħu, kif ukoll għall-Parroċċa tal-Mellieħa. Kull waħda miż-żewġ baned tagħna kellha armatura ta' madwar 70 persuna daqqaqa. Konna kburin li konna kapaċi nidhru quddiem numri kbar ta' nies fil-festi parrokkjali, kemm fl-ibliet u kemm fl-irħula, kemm f'Malta u kemm f'Għawdex. Bħala mudelli kbar li aħna kellna quddiemna li xtaqna nimitaw kien hemm il-Banda La Valette u l-Banda La Stella (illum il-Banda King's Own), iż-żewġ baned tal-Belt Valletta.

Dak iż-żmien, meta inti tkun għaddej filgħaxijiet minn triq fil-Mellieħa kont tisma' kemm l-istudenti li kienu bdew jistudjaw xi strument, kif ukoll l-istess bandisti li jkunu ħadu l-parti tagħhom tal-istrument li jkunu jdoqqu fil-kunċerti biex, meta jerġgħu lura għall-kunċert, ikunu verament ippreparati ħalli, meta jiġu mistiedna għad-daqq f'parroċċi oħra, joħorġu bl-unuri kollha. Niftakar li kemm il-bandisti tal-Banda La Vittoria u kemm dawk tal-Banda Imperial kienu jilbsu l-uniformi tal-banda tagħhom. Il-membri tal-Banda La Vittoria ma tantx damu wisq jilbsu l-uniformi għall-okkażjoni, imma l-bandisti tal-Banda Imperial damu żmien twil warajna (tal-La Vittoria) jilbsu bl-uniformi kull fejn kienu jkunu mistednin f'parroċċi oħra.

Bejnietna l-bandisti tal-La Vittoria u l-bandisti tal-Imperial kellna daqsxejn tal-pika – ta' kemm konna kapaċi ndoqqu mużika klassika, u

kultant diffiċli, imma sabiħa u li tferrhek ukoll. Dan jurina biċ-ċar kemm konna neħduha bis-serjetà biex meta nidhru quddiem udjenzi kbar noħorġu bl-unuri kollha. Missieri, Ġużeppi, kien idoqq il-klarinet, u aħna l-erba' aħwa konna wkoll indoqqu mal-La Vittoria: Wiġi bil-kurunetta, Manwel bil-klarinet, Dwardu bil-klarinet, u jien kont indoqq il-quartino.

Niftakar ukoll li mal-Imperial kien idoqq il-quartino Joseph Camilleri (il-Ġurina). Kien jistudjah ħafna u kien sar kapaċi ħafna wkoll għad-daqq. Kellu kemm legġerezza u kemm ħlewwa fid-daqq tal-istrument. Jiena kont nistudja d-daqq tal-quartino madwar tliet sigħat kuljum. Dan ifisser li aħna t-tnejn konna tghallimna l-istrument b'kunfidenza kbira. Konna żewġt iħbieb li konna verament nirrispettaw lil xulxin. Konna nehdeu nitkellmu fuq id-daqq tal-istrumenti taż-żewġ baned Melleħin u fuq baned ta' postijiet oħra wkoll.

Jalla dawn iż-żewġ baned Melleħin jibqgħu jagħmlu unur mhux biss fil-parroċċa tagħna tal-Mellieħa, imma kull fejn, aktar 'il quddiem meta tghaddi l-pandemija, jerġgħu jibdeu ikunu mistiedna f'parroċċi oħra għad-daqq tal-marċi u għall-programmi ta' mużika klassika.



Il-Banda Imperial fl-1953 bl-uniformi tagħha



L-Indja. Għaliex? Għalfejn?

David Bartolo

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Din is-sena ddeċidejt li nikteb esperjenza personali li għaddejna minna jien u marti. Din l-esperjenza seħhet f'Jannar u Frar 2019 fejn morna l-Indja biex naddottaw it-tifel.

L-Indja huwa pajjiż enormi immens u għandu it-tieni l-ikbar popolazzjoni fid-dinja wara dik taċ-Ċina fejn huwa stmat li hemm madwar biljun, 330 miljun u 637 elf ruħ li huma 1/6 tal-popolazzjoni kollha tad-dinja. Huwa l-ikbar demokrazija fid-dinja u hu maqsum fi 28 stat u 8 territorji. Il-belt kapitali hija Delhi li hija meqjusa bħala t-tieni l-ikbar belt fid-dinja b'popolazzjoni li hija stmata ta' 28 miljun u 514 -il elf ruħ li jiġu daqs ftit inqas minn nofs il-popolazzjoni kollha tal-Italja.



L-Indja kif maqsuma fi stati u territorji

Ir-religjonijiet principali huma l-Hindu u l-Iżlam. Dawn huma riflessi ukoll fil-bandiera Indjana li tikkonsisti fi tliet faxx – faxx ta' kulur oranġjo li jirrappreżenta l-Hindu, faxx abjad u faxx ieħor aħdar li jirrappreżenta l-Iżlam. Fil-faxx abjad li jirrappreżenta r-religjonijiet l-oħra hemm ir-rota tal-insiġ tat-tessuti li tirrappreżenta l-ħsieb tal-famuż

Indjan Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) biex l-Indjani jinsġu l-ħwejjeġ tagħhom. Il-lingwa ufficjali hija l-Hindi, imma l-Indja għandha total ta' 447 lingwa differenti. L-Ingliz huwa użat ukoll u dan peress li għal hafna snin dan l-pajjiż kien kolonja Ingliża bħal Malta taħt diversi forom bejn l-1612 u l-1947.



Il-bandiera tal-Indja

L-Indja, Malta u l-Mellieħa

Avolja hemm kuntrasti kbar bejn l-Indja u Malta, teżisti konnesjoni twila li tmur lura għexerien ta' snin. Żewġ elementi f'din l-konnesjoni huma relatati mal-ħakma kolonjali Ingliża. Waħda tittratta l-militar u l-oħra l-kummerċ.

Malta u l-Indja stabilixxew ir-relazzjonijiet diplomatiċi fl-1965 u l-Indja kienet wiehed mill-ewwel pajjiżi li rrikonoxxew l-indipendenza ta' Malta fl-1964. It-tnejn huma membri fil-Commonwealth u kemm f'Malta kif ukoll fl-Indja tinsab il-Kummissjoni Għolja tal-pajjiż l-ieħor rispettivament. Waqt li dik Maltija tinsab f'Delhi, dik Indjana tinsab f'Santa Venera. Fl-Indja jinsabu ukoll konsulati Maltin fil-bliet ta' Mumbai, Chennai u Kolkata.

Fl-1878, il-Gvern Kolonjali Ingliż, kien ġab eluf ta' suldati Indjani biex ikunu stazzjonati f'Malta. Dan kien possibbli l-aktar minħabba l-ftuħ tal-Kanal tas-Suez fl-1869. Dan il-kontingent li kien jikkonsisti f'madwar 8,550, bejn suldati u oħrajn, kienu l-ewwel suldati Indjani li ħallew pajjiżhom biex iservu f'art oħra. Dawn kienu ġew stazzjonati hawn waqt il-gwerra Russa-Turka ta' bejn l-1877 u l-1878.



Soldati Inglizi u Indjani waqt parata fil-Furjana f'Ġunju 1878

F'Malta tezisti komunità Indjana li taf l-origini tagħha lura lejn is-sena 1887. Dawn kienu kummerċjanti u negozjanti, l-aktar tat-tessuti, u sal-lum għad fadal ħwienet ta' dixxendenti Indjani fil-Belt Valletta. Fiż-żminijiet tal-lum, hawn ukoll diversi Indjani li jaħdmu fl-oqsma tas-saħħa u l-kura tal-anzjani li l-biċċa kbira tagħhom ġejjin mill-istat ta' Kerala li jinsab fin-Nofsinhar tal-Indja.



Il-faċċata tal-ktieb "Jiemi fl-Indja"

ppubblikat fl-1984 fuq l-esperjenza tagħha fl-Indja bejn il-25 t'Ottubru u d-19 ta' Diċembru 1982.

Il-COVID-19 fl-Indja

Il-pandemija tal-COVID-19 ħalliet impatt negattiv ħafna fuq l-Indja. Mill-bidu ta' din il-pandemija sal-lum kien hemm xi 32.4 miljun każ u mietu xi 434,000 ruħ. Hafna nies li mardu bil-COVID-19 u li kellhom bżonn kura fl-

isptarijiet ma sabux sodda u wisq anqas ossiġnu. Hafna minnhom spiċċaw jirrikorru għall-ossiġnu u l-medicina neċessarja mis-suq illegali fejn il-prezzijiet kienu tant għoljin li l-familji Indjani li l-biċċa kbira minnhom huma fqar ħafna, spiċċaw imutu fuq l-għatba tal-isptarijiet. Malta għenet mill-aħjar li setgħet lil dan il-pajjiż billi ntbagħtu diversi għajnuniet biex l-Indja tikkumbatti din l-pandemija.

Rigward tagħmir mediku u medicina, fejn prezz normali ta' ċilindru tal-ossiġnu jiswa xi 50 dollaru Amerikan, fis-suq illegali dan kien jiswa bejn 660 u 1,330 dollaru Amerikan, u ċerti medicini meħtieġa, li normalment jiswew bejn 12 u 53 dollaru Amerikan, fis-suq illegali dawn kienu qed jinbiegħu bejn madwar 330 u 1,000 dollaru Amerikan. Bejn wieħed u ieħor, is-salarju fix-xahar huwa ta' 31,900 rupee Indjana li huma madwar 367 ewro jew 430 dollaru Amerikan.

Addozzjoni mill-Indja

L-Indja hija magħrufa għall-addozzjonijiet tat-tfal minn hemmhekk, madwar id-dinja kollha fosthom Malta. Matul is-snin, diversi koppji Maltin, fosthom aħna, addottaw tfal Indjani. Dan huwa possibbli għall-ħidma ta' diversi aġenziji, fosthom l-aġenzija privata "Aġenzija Tama" li tispeċjalizza f'dan il-qasam u s-suċċess tagħhom hija grazzja għal ħafna koppji.

Kif għedt fil-bidu, aħna morna l-Indja għat-tifel tagħna Pravin f'Jannar 2019. Għal min forsi mhux midħla tal-addozzjoni mill-Indja, il-proċess jieħu ċertu żmien mhux ħażin u jista' jdum qatigh. Ngħidu aħna, fil-każ tagħna dan ħa madwar sena u fih ħafna saffi ta' xi trid tagħmel

u x'jirrekjedi. Il-proċess jitlob ħafna dokumenti li meta jingabar kollox u jintbagħtu l-Indja, dawn jitlegħu fil-piż għal diversi kilogrammi. Proċess ieħor huwa l-vaċċin li trid tieħu. Wieħed irid iżomm f'moħħu li f'dan l-pajjiż hemm ħafna perikli għas-saħħa u hemm ħafna mard li, filwaqt li f'pajjiżna u fil-pajjiżi żviluppati dawn inqerdu, fl-Indja għadhom hemm u huma komuni. Minbarra d-diversi vaċċini li ħafna minnhom jirrekjedu li terġa' tieħu doži oħrajn kif tiġi lura, trid tieħu wkoll il-pilloli ta' kontra l-malarja.



Hwienet fi triq f'belt Indjana

Malli wieħed jasal fl-Indja jibda jinduna d-differenzi kulturali u soċjali li jeżistu bejn il-ħajja f'Malta u fil-pajjiżi żviluppati u s-sistema Indjana. Fl-ajruporti u f'ħafna postijiet wieħed jinnota l-preżenza qawwija militari b'enfasi kbira fuq is-sigurtà nazzjonali. Il-qawwiet militari Indjani huma fost l-akbar fid-dinja u dan il-pajjiż għandu wkoll il-qawwa nukleari. Ta' min jgħid li f'termini militari, l-Indja għandha t-tieni l-akbar forza militari u għandha l-akbar baġit militari fid-dinja.

Dan il-fattur huwa wieħed ta' tħassib kbir. Meta tara l-faqar kbir u l-kuntrasti kbar bejn il-minoranza għanja u l-maġġoranza fqira, dan ma jagħmel sens xejn. Min-naħa l-oħra, wieħed irid iżomm f'moħħu li l-Indja minn żmien għal ieħor tkun fi stat ta' gwerra ma' żewġ pajjiżi ġirien tagħha, il-Pakistan u ċ-Ċina, kif ukoll jinqala' għied etniku f'xi reġjuni fl-Indja stess. Minħabba f'hekk l-awtoritajiet Indjani jiġġustifikaw din in-nefqa kbira fl-armi.

It-traffiku li wieħed jara fit-toroq Indjani huwa wieħed inkredibbli. Kull tip ta' vettura li tista' timmaġina jew anki ma timmaġinax,



Tgħid tgħaddi mill-VRT!?

taraha għaddejja fit-toroq. It-traffiku fi bliet bħal Delhi huwa wieħed li ma tinsieh qatt. Vetturi litteralment jmissu ma' xulxin, speċjalment it-tuck tucks li huma vetturi bi tliet roti. Semmejt il-vetturi li ma timmaġinax għax anki vetturi bla ħgieg u bla bibien rajt! Apparti dan it-traffiku sfiq li jħammeġ sew l-arja, ma tinsa qatt id-daqq ta' ħornijiet kważi minn kull vettura. Haġa oħra li ma tinsa qatt huwa l-ilma. Tingħata struzzjoni anki fil-lukanda avolja ta' livell għoli biex ma tużax l-ilma tal-vit apparti biex tinhasel (għax m'hemmx mod ieħor), imma tuża biss ilma tal-fliexken li l-lukanda tipprovdi b'servizz eċċellenti bħal kull talba oħra. Dan jiġi kkunsmat biex taħsel wiċċek u snienek apparti biex tixrob.



Il-famużi tuck tucks

Bħala vjaġġ minn Malta sal-Indja, wieħed jista' jagħzel minn għażla ta' linji tal-ajru li joffru vjaġġar fit-tul. Fil-każ tagħna l-vjaġġ kien twil 24 siegħa b'diversi waqfiet, u wara vjaġġ



Il-Belt ta' Delhi, evidenti it-tniġġiz fl-arja

għal xi sigħat oħra b'vettura. Matul il-vjaġġ tara b'għajnejk il-faqar kbir. Meta konna hemm kienet bdiet il-kampanja elettorali u allura kull fejn tara billboards kbar ta' partiti politici differenti li huma bil-wisq akbar minn dawk li mdorrijin naraw f'pajjiżna.

Gheluq

Inhegġeġ lil min jixtieq li jagħmel dan il-pass tal-addozzjoni, mhux bilfors mill-Indja, biex ma jaqtax qalbu u jibda l-ewwel pass. Għall-bidu tara kollox bi kbir u impossibbli. Imma bil-kuraġġ li thegġeġ matul il-proċess u bl-għajjnuna t'Alla, żgur li taslu biex tilhqu dan l-għan ta' mħabba u ġest nobbli.



Il-famuza Fortizza l-Hamra f'Delhi

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Il-Festa sabiħa tagħna

Christopher Bartolo

Sagristan

Ta' kull sena, meta tgħaddi l-festa ta' Santa Marija, il-komunità Melleħija tibda tipprepara għall-festa titulari tagħha - il-festa ta' Marija Bambina, festa liturgika li fiha nfakkru t-twelid tal-Verġni Mqaddsa Marija li kellha tkun "il-Maghżula" biex tkun Omm il-Feddej. Il-festa tagħna kienet minn żmien il-qedem festa popolari mal-Maltin u l-Għawdxin. Niftakar sewwa meta ġejt maħtur sagristan fl-1976, il-festa tagħna kienet tkun frekwentata minn eluf ta' nies li kienu joħonqu l-pjazza maestuża tagħna.

Il-festa tar-raħal tagħna tista' titqies popolari għal diversi raġunijiet. Dari, lejlet il-festa, kienu jingabru gruppi ta' nies mad-dawra tal-knisja tagħna jgħannu. Hafna nies kienu jingabru madwar dawn l-għannejja u kienu jibqgħu jgħannu sa kmieni jum il-festa filgħodu sa xhin is-sagrigan jiftaħ il-knisja għall-ewwel quddiesa. Normalment l-għana kien jibda eżattament kif jispiċċa n-nar tal-art jew kif inhu magħruf bħala "gigġifogu".

Niftakar fl-ewwel ħames snin li lhaqt sagristan, l-ewwel quddiesa kienet tibda fit-3.30 ta' filgħodu. Il-knisja kienet tkun ippakkjata bin-nies - l-aktar Melleħin u Għawdxin, li kienu hafna dawk li jigu għall-festa tagħna. Kienet tkun xena sabiħa tara l-knisja mixgħula kollha u armata u mimlija b'dawk in-nies kollha!

Għall-grazzja t'Alla, il-festa tagħna dejjem kienet ippreparata u ffestegġjata b'dinjità, kemm mill-parti religjuża kif ukoll mill-parti soċjali. Għal dak li għandu x'jaqsam man-naħa religjuża, il-funzjonijiet fil-knisja jibdeu bin-noveni - disat ijiem ta' preparazzjoni fejn fihom kull gurnata tkun iddedikata għal xi sezzjoni partikulari tal-komunità tagħna. Dawn iwassluna għal lejlet il-festa meta filgħaxija ssir it-Traslazzjoni, l-ewwel Għasar u quddiesa kantata solenni. Jum il-festa filgħodu, il-qniepen sbieħ tal-knisja tagħna jindaqqu biex jistednuna għall-quddiesa kantata solenni fejn fiha jintiseg il-panigierku. Fi tmiem il-quddiesa tindaq l-antifona tal-Madonna u jsir il-bews

tar-relikwa. Imbagħad filgħaxija jingħad it-tieni Għasar. Eżatt wara, meta kien kollox normali, kienet toħroġ il-purċissjoni bl-istatwa ta' Marija Bambina u wara d-dhul tal-purċissjoni tingħata l-barka sacramentali.

F'dak li għandu x'jaqsam mal-parti soċjali, il-komunità Melleħija u hafna nies oħra li jigu jżuruna flimkien ma' hafna turisti li jkunu fostna, jiċcelebraw dawn il-jiem ta' festa b'modi differenti. It-toroq u l-pjazza tar-raħal tagħna jkunu mzejnin u armati bl-aħjar mod possibbli. Il-faċċata tal-knisja u l-koppla jkunu mixgħula bil-bozoz ikkuluriti li jkomplu joħolqu atmosfera ta' festa. Hafna nies jakkumpanjaw liż-żewġ baned tagħna li joħorgu jdoqqu marċi brijużi madwar it-toroq tar-raħal tagħna. Oħrajn jippreferu joqogħdu fil-kazini tal-baned jixorbu xi ħaġa waqt li hafna joqogħdu jitpaxxew bil-logħob tan-nar tal-ajru li jkun imħejji mid-dilettanti Melleħin. Hafna nies oħra joqogħdu jistennew il-ħin biex jisimgħu ż-żewġ innijiet ad unur Marija Bambina li jindaqqu miż-żewġ baned li għandna fil-Mellieħa.

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, il-festa fil-Mellieħa ħadet xeħta kemxejn differenti. Għal matul il-granet tal-festa, daħlu drawwiet sbieħ li għandhom valuri Nsara kbar. Saret drawwa ta' kull sena li f'gurnata matul il-gimgha tal-festa jkollna l-mobile unit tal-għoti tad-demmi fejn hafna Melleħin jersqu biex jagħmlu dan il-ġest tant nobbli u jagħtu d-demmi. Oħrajn jieħdu l-inizjattiva sabieħ jgħinu lil xi nies li jkollhom xi diffikultajiet li ggħib il-ħajja. Naraw ukoll lill-għaqdiet u l-kazini tagħna jagħmlu għotjiet ta' flus lil tant nies li jkunu jeħtieġu l-għajnuna, fosthom nies fil-bżonn minħabba xi diżabilità jew xi kundizzjoni oħra. Dawn il-valuri sbieħ ikomplu jsebbħu l-festa tagħna anke biex nuru li nkunu qegħdin naħsbu f'dawk li għal xi raġuni jew oħra ma jkunux jistgħu jifirħu u jgawdu l-festa magħna. Dawn l-atti jressquna aktar lejn Ommna Marija Santissima, lejn binha Ġesù u anke lejn xulxin. Huwa xieraq li l-ferħ li ggħib magħha l-festa jhossu kullħadd. B'hekk biss inkunu nistgħu ngħidu li kellna festa suċċess -

billi nagħtu għeħ lill-Madonna billi nattendu għall-funzjonijiet fil-knisja u billi nuru solidarjetà ma' dawk ħutna li ma jistgħux igawdu l-festa magħna.

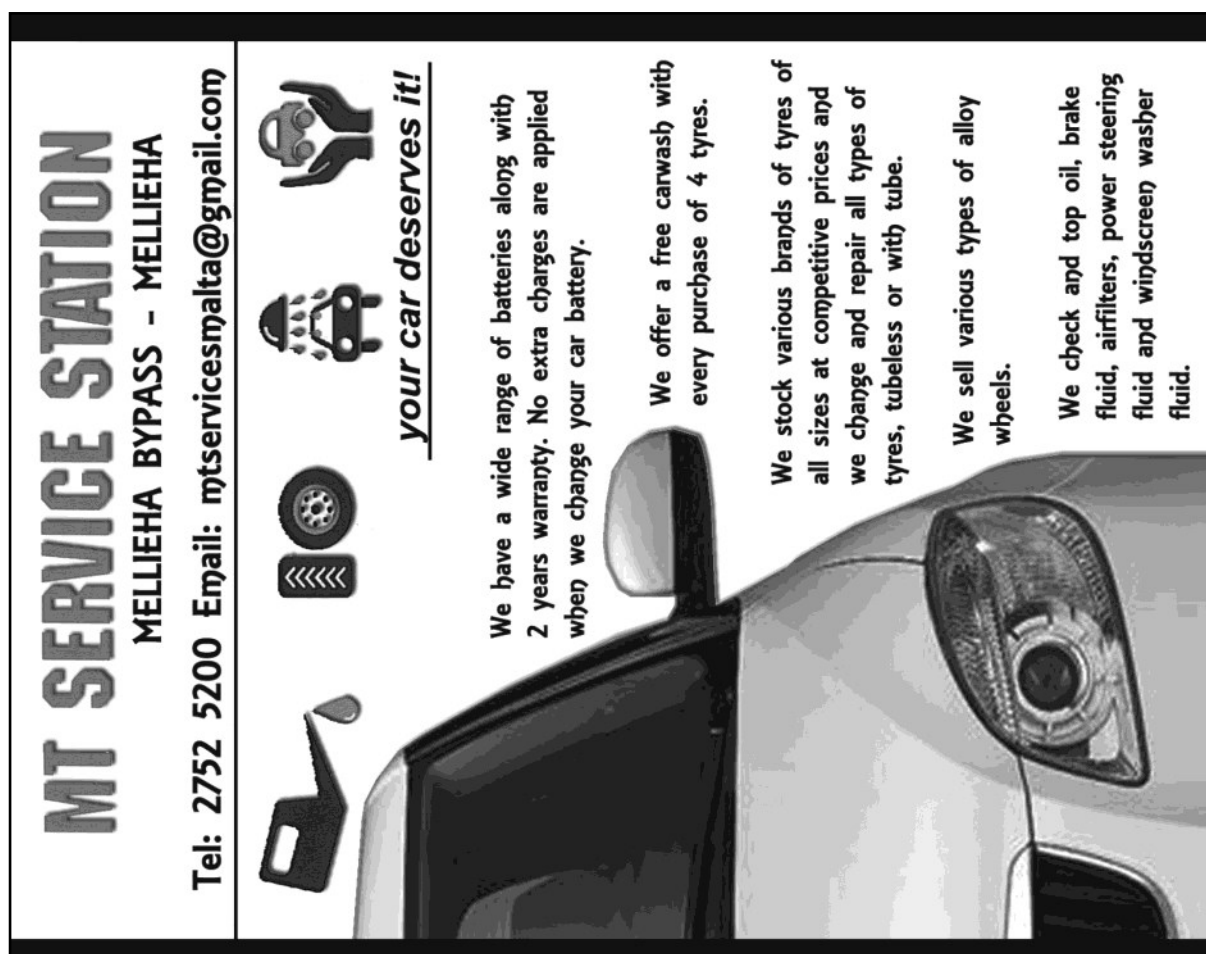
F'dan il-messaġġ tiegħi fil-festa tas-sena 2021, nixtieq niringrazzja lil Alla l-Imbierək u lil Ommu l-Verġni Marija Bambina tal-grazzja kbira li tawni li din is-sena għalaqt 45 sena sagristan tal-parroċċa tagħna – snin twal li fihom ħdimt ma' ħafna nies u li dejjem għamilt l-almu tiegħi kollu sabiex ikollna knisja mżejna mill-aqwa f'kull okkażjoni. Is-sodisfazzjon tiegħi hu li matul dawn is-snin tajt l-għajnunna u s-servizz tiegħi lil kulhadd mingħajr differenza. Nixtieq niringrazzja lill-ex kappillani u s-sacerdoti kollha li ħdimt magħhom u lill-Arċipriet preżenti Dun Joe Caruana tar-rispett u l-għajnunna li dejjem tani. Niringrazzja ukoll lis-Sindku u lill-kunsilliera tar-rispett u l-apprezzament tagħhom lejn il-ħidma tiegħi u lill-President Josef Borg u lis-Segretarju John Baptist Gauci tal-Banda Imperial talli reġġhu stednuni biex inwassal il-messaġġ tiegħi. Fl-aħħar niringrazzja lill-għaqdiet soċjali kollha Melleħin li ħdimt magħhom mill-qrib meta xi

wahda minnhom iċċelebrat xi anniversarju jew attività speċjali.






Mill-ewwel gurnata li bdejt il-ħidma tiegħi bħala sagristan, jien dejjem emmint u nibqa' nemminha sal-aħħar jum tal-ħidma tiegħi li meta taħdem, tirrispetta u tapprezza ħidmiet l-għaqdiet li għandna fir-raħal, flimkien nistgħu nagħmlu ħafna affarijiet sbieħ u li jagħtu gost lil kulhadd. Bil-ftehim u r-rispett reċiproku, fil-Mellieħa jirnexxilna norganizzaw festi u okkażjonijiet fejn fihom il-komunità Melleħija tifraħ u tiċċelebra b'mod dinjituż kif titlob komunità ċivilizzata kif għandna fraħal twelidna, il-Mellieħa, raħal mogħni b'ħafna ġmiel u teżori fosthom il-knisja arċipretali u s-Santwarju Nazzjonali tal-Madonna tal-Mellieħa li writna mingħand missirijietna.

Fl-aħħar nett, ejjew nitolbu lill-Mulej Ġesù u lil Ommu Marija sabiex terġa' tfigg dik il-gurnata li maż-żerniq tagħha terġa' għbilna il-fejqaq sħiħ u li nerggħu nieħdu saħħitna minn din il-pandemija ħalli nerggħu nibdew ingawdu l-festi u norganizzawhom kif konna qabel.

Il-festa t-tajba lil kulhadd.



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L-istaġuni

Ġanni Camilleri

Sena fiha erba' staġuni.
Kull staġun jieħu tliet xhur.
Ebda wieħed mhu bħall-ieħor;
Jibda l-gdid, ta' qablu jmur.

L-istaġuni huma erbgħa:
Ir-rebbiegħa u s-sajf, tnejn sbieħ.
It-tnejn l-oħra, bil-jiem qosra;
Jibda r-ragħad, ir-riħ u l-ksieħ.

Issib 'il min iħobb lil wieħed
U l-oħrajn ma jaħmilhomx,
Għax id-dinja hekk magħmula!
Għalhekk tort ma tagħtihomx.

L-istaġuni jixbhu l-ħajja.
Tibda din sew fir-rebbiegħa
Għax bħal din, l-art tieħu l-ħajja;
Tnibbet l-art ħafna żerriegħa.

U s-sajf, żmien iż-żgħozija.
Il-mistrieħ u x-xalar.
L-isbaħ żmien tal-ħajja tagħna;
Żmien sabiħ u tan-namrar.

Il-ħarifa tneżza' s-siġar.
L-istess tagħmel lilna lkoll.
Għax nibdew nintebħu bl-għeja
U bil-bixra tagħna wkoll.

U x-xitwa, żmien xjuhitna;
Meta s-saħħa tibda tnin.
Fis nintebħu kemm inbdilna
Meta naslu sat-tmenin.

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The Trumpeter

Toni Caruana - *il-Ħuttu*

(Based on talks with him, mainly on the 4th September 2009)

Paul P. Borg

Toni is a little man. Despite being an old octogenarian, he has an astonishing amount of energy which one beholds immediately by his eagerness to talk about life, his quick little steps in a brisk walking gait, and the incredible enthusiasm for music and for his band club.

"I have been playing a musical instrument since I was 12 years old!" he told me with pride. "I never stopped playing. I have been playing constantly for seventy three years! I love playing music! I enjoy concerts so much!"

Then he stopped. I looked at the musical instrument he held in his hands. He must have seen the look of disbelief on my face.

"Yes!" he chuckled. "And I play the trumpet! And you need good lungs for that. But I enjoy it, and I never miss a concert and I never miss rehearsals!"

Toni is the father of Charlie, the village barber at Mosta, who told me about him. Barbers and hair dressers are apparently not only renowned for being good with their pair of scissors and comb, but also at being able to conduct good and informative conversations.

I met Toni on the premises of the Imperial Band Club at Mellieħa. It was a hot September afternoon just some days before the village feast. An aura of looming and expectant but subdued excitement could not be missed even

as I parked in the parish square. The club was teeming with keyed up young men – some keenly going over details on musical scores with their young and helpful band master Mro. Anthony Borg, others going over the finishing touches of other activities of the club. Groups of other members sipped coffee, or tea, or cold beer over a game of cards. Toni and I were conducted from the bar to the society's main hall. Being shoved to the bar and offered drinks is an indisputable ritual one has to go through whenever one visits these localities.

"It will be silent in the hall," Mro. Borg told us. "It is cooler and no one will disturb you!" Then he left with a sheaf of musical scores under his arm pit.

My Mother

"I was born on the 14th March 1924," he told me after settling down. "They called me Toni and my family is called *Ta' Sufa*, but I do not know why they gave us that nickname! I only know that I have been playing musical instruments since I was a little boy in 1936! When I was ten years old I had already started learning music. But I grew up without my mother as she died during childbirth when I was just three or four years old. I do not recall her at all. There were three girls older than I was... but in those days, the midwife at home... well it was different... the baby could not be born and my mother died with her baby still inside her unable to be born... those were different days... women gave birth at home..."

I did not speak but I let him say what he felt. I soon realised that even though so many years had gone by, he still had his heart aching at what had happened and at the tragedy that had befallen his family. The sense of controlled misery and helplessness he was feeling now was undoubtedly the continuation of what he had always felt over the years. He sighed deeply.



“My father worked in the fields,” he continued. “I was taken by my grandmother who looked after me, and I lived with her at Selmun. She was *nanna Blajja* we called her, because she came from the family of *tal-Blaj*. But she too died two years later. Those were very bad days for us. Father did not have many fields, and to make ends meet he had to employ himself by working in other fields as well. He took me with him when I was just five or six years old and I helped as best I could. Father earned one shilling weekly for working long hours in the fields of other people so that he may have enough money to keep the ball rolling. But we were once more united and lived as a family together.

“I used to work on the threshing floor with *Barba Ċensu*, but then he went to Australia... but then my sisters took care of us. My sisters brought me up then. But I went to school until class five. It was almost obligatory I think, if you were absent they would send you a report. It was not a real school, because classes were in different houses around Mellieħa. The early stages were at the place we call the ‘Centre’ today, and the present Labour Party Club was the place where we had the upper classes. There was a class each grade and boys and girls were kept separate.

School days

“We started at eight till half past eleven and started again at quarter to two till four o’clock in the afternoon. There were children who had to walk all the way from Selmun, like your father! Or all the way from Manikata a couple of miles away! Not only that but we were always barefoot in those days and we had never enough money to buy a pair of shoes. But you were not allowed to come to school barefooted! You would see many school children turning up with just one shoe so that the shoe they had would last longer! Those who came from far away had to stay running in the street or in the fields waiting for the afternoon session.

“I remember your father Ġużeppi, he always had to walk all the way from Selmun... we used to play a lot together, we were very good friends.

“We studied Maltese, English, Arithmetic... history, some geography... in those days they taught us also some wood work, how to use a hammer, how to use a plane... Each class took turns to go there.

“But at four o’clock we just played in the streets then! We either played with buttons or

we simply ran after each other. Or we spun tops...”

Toni describe to me how they played with the simplest of things in his childhood. No one had the possibility of getting today’s toys so that they had to have lots of imagination to improvise as young children only can do. A popular game they played consisted simply of throwing buttons against a wall, the nearest button to the wall being the winner. Another game was called ‘*ma ttihielix*’, where one of the children tried to run and catch the others. Hide-and-seek was also very popular.

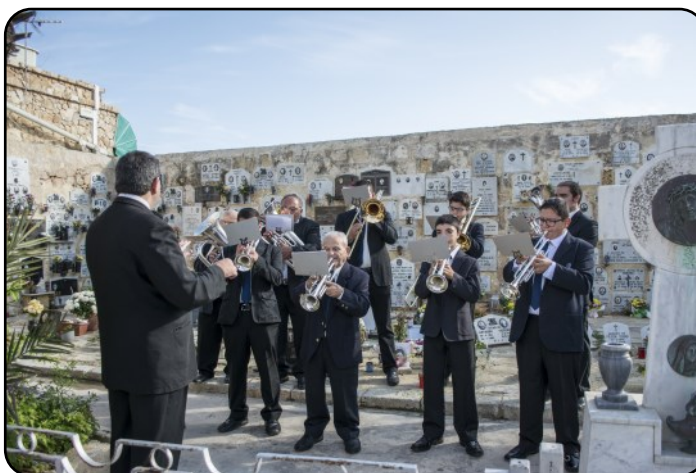
Toni’s father used to frequent the band club so that the little boy immediately decided to learn playing a musical instrument.

Street Lighting and Lemonade

“In those days when we had no electricity, the streets were dark but for a lonely paraffin lamp that was lit every evening at sunset by a man carrying a ladder. There used to be a light next to the cemetery and there was one in the square. During feast days in September we had a special treat and the club used to light several oil lamps to give that festive atmosphere with some more light. Needless to say that a simple gust of wind would blow out all lamps and we would be in pitch darkness! They used to be mounted in fives or in sixes on several boards fixed to vertical poles.

“But the happiness of those festive days was based on simple things,” Toni continued. “There used to be the person with a large container selling lemonade. It used to be cold and icy, and sometimes it tasted of lemon! We used to call it *ruġġata*... and you would ask him for a halfpenny of ice... just ice it used to be! There used to be the nougat seller. He used to come with his horse-drawn cart loaded with nougats and we used to buy some of the sweet with a halfpenny if we had that money! The nougat seller always came from Haż-Zebbuġ with his donkey or his mule. Or all the way from Gozo! There were no cars in those days. In fact there was a special place on the site where today there is the Nationalist Party Club, and sellers who came over from other villages for the feast of *il-Vitorja* used to leave their horses or mules or whatever they had, down there to be taken care of. These people used to spend the days here with us and at night they all slept in the parish square... they would wake up early in the morning and go for early mass. They would have their nougat well covered...”

Toni remembers vividly a job he used to do when still a fourteen year old. The Second World War was on the horizon and the British had decided to build a fortress at Selmun, so that some farmhouses had to be pulled down to clear the way for the site. Toni and a friend of his friend called *Salvu ta' Kaminetta*, used to work at the site of construction. They were employed by a man whom he remembers as *il-Mançott*. The latter had been allocated a room in which he prepared coffee and tea. Toni's and his friend's job was to go round



with very heavy and large containers to sell drinks to the workers. One boy carried a kettle with coffee whilst the other sold tea. Workers themselves had their own personal containers, frequently just an empty can that previously had contained preserved food. Each cup cost a half penny. They also sold ring-cakes covered with sesame seeds at the same price. There was also wine and lemonade for those who preferred this.

"The war was the changeover of the work situation here in Mellieħa," said Toni. "Before the war there were very few work places, if any at all. But with the building of the fort Campbell there was a lot of work to be done. Many people from Mellieħa were employed there.

"Well we used to go round with these kettles with boiling tea or coffee... he also sold lemonade... it used to be made by *Portanier* of *Santa Vendra*."

The Trumpet Player

"I remember a time when there were just nine cars at Mellieħa and I can still see the bandmaster Sammut being driven in an open car! And then driving him back to Birkirkara."

Toni was very active as a young member of the band. Initially he used to play the horn, but besides playing a musical instrument, he was also entrusted with the job of a band delegate to organise activities for the group, taking the band to play its first musical programme in Gozo in 1947.

"And I remember our club crossing over to Comino every year to play there on the feast day of the little chapel on the island," he continued. "We used to play on the eve of the feast, sleeping there and playing also on the day itself. I had two Gozitan friends who hailed from Xewkija. They had a restaurant at Valletta next to the market there. They cooked very traditional Maltese food, like tripe, *bigilla*,

pasta, *kawlata*... they used to get some meat from Gozo on Monday morning. We were good friends as we used to meet frequently, I was working as a bus conductor in those days... But the following year they were returning home from Marfa and it was very stormy, but they decided to risk crossing the channel with a *luzzu*. Everyone perished at Hondoq ir-Rummien in Gozo! They died too, only one person was saved, he was a postman from Nadur and he ran up to Qala to tell of the tragedy. There were too many people in the boat and it capsized in the rough sea as it was entering harbour!

Public transport to Mellieħa from Valletta was by means of buses. These buses had a crew of two, the driver and the bus conductor, the latter collecting the fare from passengers. Toni had a spell at this job as well and remembers how long the trip would be from Valletta all the way to Mellieħa or Marfa. He still remembers those hard times when the larger the number of passengers the larger would be the income for the driver and the conductor. This was an archaic system that resulted in slowing down of the bus in order to pick as many commuters as possible.

"I remember Duke of York Avenue bombarded and people barely being able to go over the bridge there! But during the war the band activities were all cancelled, especially since we had here on our present premises the KOMR (King's Own Malta Regiment) and their band. They held frequent concerts and I never missed one of them! I was too young to be drafted.

"I remember the best times when there were as many as fifty bandsmen here, but I cannot grumble as even today we have a very large number, about forty or more perhaps. Besides the present conductor I can remember the

previous one, Ġanni Mamo, the one before him Ninu Sammut, and also the one before him, Salvu Vella who was from Mellieħa from *ta' Girgor*. Anthony Sammut succeeded him in 1948 and stayed for 36 whole years! I remember them all... Mamo was a soloist with the La Vallette Band. He was an excellent player."

Toni has been an active member of the club all these years, sometimes also occupying the important post of treasurer, especially during the important time when the old premises were pulled down and the new building was constructed.

"If I remember well it was in 1979 when we built the new premises," Toni went on. "And everybody worked here as a volunteer, the builders, the workers who prepared the shutters for concrete... everybody! They came after their hard day's work, and then worked here till ten o'clock to see the job completed as soon as possible. The architect was Karm Lino Spiteri and he did not charge us any money for it!



Wanton Changes and Others

The war appeared to have brought some changes to society. Whereas social progress

was rather limited and painfully slow until the advent of the Second World War, many developments occurred in the post war period in many social areas. Similarly this social progress was in turn inevitably required to result in an improvement in technological and in infrastructural areas. This became clearly apparent and quite noticeable in a village like Mellieħa so far away from other villages around Malta and where little changes would be effective. Despite this, however, the social characteristics and functions of a band club barely changed in such places, especially because substantial portions of the growing local population remained still attached to traditional customs and religious ties. This means that education, the media and the modern technological input in entertainment and in other methods that help people while away their free time, did not manage to break the ties of the local people with their traditional inclinations and habits especially where band clubs were concerned. Band clubs were so strongly ingrained in the social picture of Mellieħa. Indeed, one may safely say that modern and new trends have found a way to improve the performance of the active players, thereby increasing the standard and quality expectations of the local population.

The social function of band clubs has indeed become further solidified at Mellieħa, not only by the presence of the two clubs, the Imperial Band and the older Società Filarmonica La Vittoria, but also by the creation of other musical and artistic groups.

On the other hand, changes in the look of the village have spiralled at an appalling rate so that from a pre-war little village with no electricity and no running water, the village has metamorphosed into a tourist centre with mushrooming restaurants, hotels, a modern school and old people's home. This has however also resulted in a sad and total transformation of the neighbouring countryside and garigues into built-up areas, and the incredible loss of the ancient features of old houses in the centre and in the remaining buildings' facades.

I kept this at the back of my mind as Toni was talking. But the more he was able to describe the old Mellieħa, the more I became convinced of the fact that required changes do not necessarily always signify progress. There are required and desired changes that inevitably result in progress; there are wanton changes that progressively lead to annihilation

of required features that characteristically hold up the village identity.

Incredible Ways and Necessary Changes

"Mellieħa was blessed with running water in a tap only well after the war," Toni was telling me. "Before that we had no water and no electricity! Only in 1947 did we get running water in our houses. That is also when we had electricity! Before that there were several water taps placed in some places around Mellieħa and those who wanted water would go and fill their containers from them. Everyone would take empty pails or empty containers and fill water from these fountains. We called them *għajn tal-ilma*, fountains of water.

Drainage systems did not exist then and were unheard of. There were no drainage systems that were connected to the people's homes as an important hygienic and health service. There used to be huge underground pits in some strategic places, and people would go as need be to simply overturn and empty their bucketfuls or other containers in them during the day. These pits had little openings at the top covered with an easily removed wooden board.

"Smells and appearances were inevitably unpleasant, but these openings into the pits were kept covered as much as possible. There might be two pits in the street, one at each end... what could you do? That was our life and we had to live it! In Parish Street there were two pits...one at each end..."

As Toni talked I simply found answers to the sad problems frequently, daily, encountered in the health situation of the inhabitants. One could detect here the roots of alarmingly high rates of infant mortality and the occurrence of disease. One could picture as a daily, normal scene of people, possibly more housewives, carrying full pails to be emptied at the pit, and moving on to the water fountain to fetch water. The pits would then be periodically emptied, perhaps once or twice weekly by a special person who would come with his horse-drawn cart to pump the material into a special large receptacle mounted on his cart. This was not a picture particular only to Mellieħa, because it was a system that was prevalent apparently all over the Island. At Mosta the horse drawn cart would pass by every street every single day, emptying all containers handed to him. Alternatively, liquid waste used to be simply emptied into a gutter that ran all along the side of the street.

"There used to be little tunnels also along the street," Toni told me, "And these used to be

covered and they led to these pits... and there were paid workers whose job it was to come frequently to empty the pits. They would have their mule and a large wooden cask... then they used pails to empty the pit... they did not have a pump... all work was done manually... that was our life as well... what could we do? They used to have some water and had to wash it properly as well... perhaps it was sea water... But I also remember a time when they used to come every day, once daily to collect this material from each household. But this system did not last long over here. We used the pits more frequently.

"But I remember in 1947 there was Boffa as Prime Minister... and we accompanied playing band marches... from here, from the parish square to the sub-station up there... near the school so that he would switch on the new electrical supply system that had just been installed!"

Road Works

"My first day of work was on the nineteenth day of August in 1943. I was nineteen years old. I had had a stint as a bus conductor previously. I was on bus number 796 and used to earn a shilling daily! But then I started work as a government employee. I started as a labourer with the Public Works Department, working in roads maintenance. After five years they made me a skilled labourer.

"Roads were simply made of crushed stone dust and gravel. I worked with the pick, levelling and with the spade... you had to do what you were told. Initially we still had mules pulling a cart with the required material and we were sent on maintenance or construction jobs as required here and there with the mule and the cart. There was a huge box on the cart and it contained the required material and the tools as well. We all walked along to the site. It was slow and hard work in those days. In 1947 they started doing this work using trucks and other motorised vehicles that made work easier and quicker.

"Our work was dust!" he told me. "Dust! There would be holes on the roads and we simply had to fill these holes with the dust we carried in the box on the cart. The roads were made of this material and the rain would wash the surface away. It would first soften the surface then it would carry it in rivulets this way and that way. And we had to create a surface once more. Sometimes we also had a heavy roller that was also pulled by a horse or a

mule. It was necessary to flatten the surface and compact it as best we could. We did have a roller in our section.

"When there was a new road to construct we would first have to level it properly by knocking off the protruding rocky patches with our pick and then we used to spread this earth material, overlying the surface.

"We used to get the raw material from *Għajn Żnuber*... we used to cut it off the soft rocks there with our picks... it was like *torba*, which is rather coarse, but crushes well... we did not use any ready crushed material in those days, as there were no quarries that had machines to supply crushed rocks in the form of sand or aggregate.

"Our region was not just Mellieħa, but also St. Paul's Bay, Burmarrad... we were not a very large department however. Anyway, at the end there used to be a lot of dust. But there was also one worker who used to go around the main roads and sprinkle water which he had in a large barrel mounted on his mule. He used to get water probably from the sea. The barrel would have a length of pipe attached to a galvanised sprinkler with several holes, and the man would direct the water this way and that way. He had to pay attention not to use the water all at once, but sprinkle water only as necessary.

"But there was a hitch in all this! If it rained, all the work would be in vain! The whole road was very often washed away! The rocky surface would appear once more and we would have to start all over again! Not even a cart would be able to drive over it. Going uphill at *Għajn Żnuber* was frequently an impossibility! At *Mizieb* as well..."

Old Roads New Roads

That is the make-shift, very haphazard method they used to construct roads until a couple of decades ago in the pre-war years. The prevailing situation could not have been stranger and sadder. It was guaranteed to waste money that could have been utilised better, and it also ensured that the poor peasant was not properly served. An ironic fact about the situation was that in the same Mellieħa territory, not far from these inclines at *Għajn Żnuber* and at *Mizieb*, which Toni was mentioning, as well as at other places in the inhabited part of Mellieħa, one can still find to this present day very ancient road

constructions that are still intact although most probably being built by the Romans centuries ago. The *Ċangar* going downhill from Selmun to the old road that from Mistra Valley led all the way up to Mellieħa along the steep *Migduma* hill, is witness to all this. It is a cobbled stone road, wide and beautifully constructed, going in places steeply uphill and turning at points to break the gradient to ease the toil of beasts of burden. Other similar roads are found in other parts of Mellieħa, especially on the side of *Għajn Żnuber*.

"The time when there was a great drive to construct proper roads at Mellieħa, started in 1971," the old man said. "Actually in 1968 we started the construction of some asphalt roads. There were only a couple of asphalt roads at Mellieħa, whilst the others were still the dusty, temporary ones!"

I remember the main road along Selmun that split to *Mjieber*, to *Għajn Hadid* and to Fort Campbell, asphalted all along, but it was asphalted only years after the end of the war in the mid-fifties. The surface was certainly better than the previous one. This new road may not have been as modern and as wide a road as today's roads, but its design was far better engineering than the present. All rain water used to be conducted through covered gutters at the sides, preventing torrential rain water from entering some houses on its way downhill as happens perennially today!

A note of interest at this point is an incident that happened during the time when the present road at Selmun was being widened. The foreman's instructions were to widen the road and cover it with the flat tarmac. Unfortunately there were no details as to what should happen to the old well, called the *Bir tal-Hnejja*, and the cluster of mediaeval constructions nearby that



were situated at the top of the hill. No one appeared to know their real sort. The workers' conclusion was simply that they should demolish these couple of ugly buildings and get on with their jobs without discussions and complications. The local priest who said daily mass at the chapel, Patri Serafin, a jovial, kind, talkative but very energetic capuchin friar, would have nothing of this. The *Birtal-Hnejja* must not be demolished. It was a cultural and important feature of the area. So were the humble constructions. They should not only remain, but should in fact be preserved properly. And that was exactly what was



done. Works on the road were stopped, the authorities were contacted, discussions were held and fortunately good sense won the day so that today we can still admire these constructions which form part of our cultural heritage.

"In those years, during the late sixties, I sat for the examination as a junior foreman, but they would not give me the promotion! There were reasons why not, of course, and they had nothing to do with my skill! But later on, after some years, in the early seventies, they found the papers! I was at the Buġibba Boċċi pitch when I was informed of my promotion to junior foreman. Later I was also successful in becoming a senior foreman and I then had my own district! I was in charge of about ninety people and was responsible for the roads at Mellieħa, St.Paul's Bay... all the way to Mosta!

"I used to have instructions from the offices, and they used to tell me that this or that road will have to be done... repairs and new constructions as well. I remember that we did all the new roads at Qawra and Buġibba. Those areas were still fields in those times, but due to the building boom, new roads had to be constructed and constructed fast.

"The first thing was to spread the lower heavy coarse, the larger, coarser aggregate, and this was then rolled over several times to achieve proper compaction. This aggregate was made of chippings of the hard, compact, coralline limestone. After that we would pour asphalt all around so that it seeped into the gravel. This was followed by putting a fine layer of smaller gravel we used to call three-eights chippings. It was also coralline limestone, but smaller in size. Finally there would be the roller that would move slowly all over the place to properly flatten and compact the new surface.

"This aggregate was brought over from the local quarry, we called it *il-barriera tal-Blu*, where they had all the crushing machinery. The tar was brought in large containers from the stores at *Tal-Ballal*, on the way to *Msieraħ*. I used to send trucks to get this black liquid. We used to get it in large 45-gallon metal drums. These large drums used to be placed at the edge in the box of the truck – because by then we had stopped using mules and horses! – and opening a tap fixed to it filled smaller buckets with the pitch. This smaller bucket would have a proper wide spout at the end so that the tar would be spread evenly on the lower coarse. The three-eights chippings would then be spread on the liquid evenly by the use of spades so that most of them would stick to it and make a hard surface, certainly more durable than the primitive dusty finishes."

The tar container would be balanced in place by means of the aggregate in the truck. In order to spread the aggregate, the workers would either shove it gently and carefully down on the ground below as the truck moved slowly forward. Alternatively they would use a small wheel-barrow filled with aggregate to spread it around. It was then the job of the large roller to flatten the surface properly. The workers' job was then patching the road whenever there were any parts that had to be maintained.

Toni worked as a foreman until he left as a pensioner when he was 61 years old. But he still remembers the work he had to do as foreman. Not only must he organise and prepare all work for the next days, planning carefully according to instructions and priorities, but he also had to pay attention that there were the right people for the right job. He had to have groups who were specialised for maintenance work and patching especially of

trenches dug by the Water Works people. He had to have enough people and transport to fetch the required materials and on time. He had to organise those who were skilled in the construction of the pavements at the side of the road.

"I had a large complement of workers," he said with a nostalgic look on his face. "But believe me! We had always lots and lots of work to do and we could never, never finish it as other work would crop up! I had to make the orders to get all the necessary materials, I also fabricated the slabs used at the sides of pavements... I had a special team to do this... There was so much to think about!"

Marriage

In spite of the time he lived in when people got married sometimes without even having spoken frequently to each other, or without even having had the occasion to be on their own for some intimate and personal discussion, Toni got married to the girl of his heart with mutual consent that was discussed properly beforehand without anyone else's interference.

"I married the girl I wanted," he told me. "She comes from Mellieħa. I was twenty one years old. At the time, there was not even a place where we could get married. We grew up together and we used to play in the street together. We used to run after each other when we were little children... and when the time arrived, we simply talked it over together and decided things ourselves. We just informed the others. I was already working with the roads department and had a job. We married in 1947... there was a woman who used to bake special village cakes and she cooked some for us. That was all!



"Then in 1948 I took over the running of the club's bar, we used to call it *buttegin* in those days... my wife used to help me... we did not have whiskey in those days. But when I was a bus conductor I had made acquaintance of a certain Cutajar who used to catch the bus from St Paul's Bay to Valletta. And I approached him in his office in Valletta, and he sold me two bottles of whiskey White Label and one Haig... We sold wine mostly in those days. In Mellieħa alone there were about four who made wine commercially and I used to buy a full carboy from which I filled bottles of wine to sell at the bar. A pint of wine at one halfpenny... tea and coffee one halfpenny... a bottle of beer, the Blue type at *tliet karnijiet*, one and a half pence... and the club paid the official permits or licence to sell alcohol. This permit was called *supplika* in those days...

"We supplied only drinks and no food. But once I had a large pot and cooked tripe. But in those days we could not eat before midnight if it was a Friday or a Wednesday for we could not eat meat! So we had to wait all the time to midnight! Then midnight came... but those who were meant to receive Holy Communion could then not eat after midnight as one had to fast from midnight until one receives Holy Communion!

"I had the bar for four years; then I took it for another three years later on. We used to take the running of the bar by means of tendering an offer to the committee. The person, or the family, who would bid the highest offer would take the running of the bar for the next year. I remember I bid £90... You pay that sum to the club... and you cannot run the bar on your own, you have to have the help of your family.

"I had five children, three girls and two boys.

The first girl was born in 1949... I do not remember the dates, but a girl was born on the sixth September, just before the village feast. I also had a shop from where I sold shoes. The premises is now occupied by my daughter's daughter who is a lawyer... I had to close the shop because my wife got tired of it, the children had all been married... so I said to myself, why do I need all the trouble? In 1951 I opened this shop, and it was the first such shop in Mellieħa. There were only grocers or green grocers from where one could buy some tomato paste or a halfpenny of oil... And there were two ironmongers... one was called *id-Doqqlu* and the other was called *l-*

Għama... they were here well before I opened my shop however. There was a miller who ground corn into flour, he was called *Ġamri tal-Magna*, he had an electric grinding machine. Then there were the bakers with their ovens and people would grind their own corn and would go to prepare their own dough to bake their bread at the bakery... That was all, no other shops!"

Niche of Tradition

Toni then stopped. There were so many other things he would want to say, but I realised that although he had enjoyed going back in time, he had now become tired. He was also looking at the activity going on behind the glass door of the hall, seeing young members going by absorbed in discussions with their band master. I remembered that even at his age, Toni was actively occupied as a volunteer instructor teaching these youths how to play the trumpet and some other brass instruments.

I was sure Toni would not want to miss out on all the excitement. That was his life. The music of his band club was his life. It has always been so for at least the last seventy three years. The tradition buzzing around him was in his blood. He was totally immersed in this tradition of music and his club, the *każin*. I was soon to learn however that he was not the only old musician with the society. There was another old musician, Joseph Sciberras another octogenarian who had been playing musical instruments for the Imperial Band. Not only that, but other musicians played musical instruments into their eighties with the other Mellieħa musical society, the Società Filarmonica La Vittoria.

For better or for worse, Mellieħa had changed substantially over the decades, but Toni's and these old people love of their niche carved in music and tradition in this environment has never waned.



Editorial Note:

This article first appeared in the book "*Quest for Identity – the Mellieħa Experience*" written by Paul P. Borg and published by the Mellieħa Local Council in 2010.

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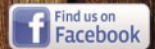
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Uħud mid-danni u ħsarat li saru minn suldati stazzjonati viċin għelieqi maħduma minn bdiewa Melleħin u l- kumpens tagħhom matul l-aħħar xhur tal-1940

Charles Debono

Kuratur tal-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Gwerra



Introduzzjoni

Minn qabel ma bdew l-ewwel attackki fuq Malta mir-*Regia Aeronautica* fil-11 ta' Ġunju 1940, diġà kien hawn numru ckejkien ta' battaljuni tal-infanterija, kemm Maltin kif ukoll Britanniċi, biex jiddefendu lil Malta f'każ ta' żbark mit-Taljani fuq il-kosta tal-gżira. Dak iż-żmien, l-inħawi tal-Mellieħa kienu mimlija għelieqi li kienu jinħadmu minn bdiewa Melleħin, f'diversi partijiet tar-raħal. Kif se naraw f'din it-tabella dettaljata t'hawn taħt, il-Melleħin kienu jaqilgħu l-għajxien tagħhom mill-uċuħ tar-raba' li kienu jkabbru. Gara iżda li peress li s-suldati tal-gwarniġġjun ta' Malta kienu mferrxin mal-gżira kollha, jippreparaw jew ikomplu jsaħħu d-difiżi ta' Malta, spiss kienu jinqalgħu incidenti fejn suldati ta' battaljuni differenti kienu jidhlu u jgħaffġu fl-għelieqi tal-Melleħin. Dan ħafna drabi kien ikun ta'

detriment għall-istess bdiewa, fejn wara li jkunu kabbru l-uċuħ tar-raba' jew indukraw is-siġar tagħhom, dawn jisfaw mgħaffġa, is-siġar maqsumin jew imkissrin, il-ħitan tas-sejjieħ milquta jew imwaqqa' u anki tqegħid ta' barbed wire fuq l-istess ħitan. Il-bdiewa kienu jirrapportaw dawn il-ħsarat magħmula mis-suldati, biex almenu jakkwistaw kumpens neċessarju għall-qerda tal-uċuħ tar-raba' jew tal-ħsara lis-siġar. Din li hawn taħt hija tabella li turi meta ġew irrappurtati l-ħsarat li saru bejn Awwissu u Diċembru 1940 minn sid l-għalqa jew bidwi, l-inħawi fejn kienet tinsab l-għalqa, x'tip ta' ħsara saret, is-somma totali għall-kumpens, eċċ.

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DATA TAR- RAPPORT	SID	FEJN HI L-GHALQA	ETA	TIP TA' HSARA	MIN IKKAWZA	KEMM SWIET	META SARET
31/8/1940	Vincent Cini	Tal-Bajadin	52 sena	Dwieli, sigar tat-tin, inqata' frott u teħid ta' kwantità t'ilma	1 st Btn KOMR	£2.10	Il-gimħa ta' qabel
31/8/1940	Annie Sammut	Id-Dahla	70 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	Fid-19 u l-24 tax-xahar
31/8/1940	Joseph Vella	Il-Qala tal-Mistra	60 sena	Għeneb u tin	8 th Btn Manchester Regiment	£2.10	-----
1/9/1940	John Maria Borg	Għajn Żejtuna	47 sena	Hitan tas-sejjeħ, dwieli, għeneb, sigar tat-tin u basal	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	25/8/1940
15/9/1940	Victor Gauci	Għajn Tuffieħa	64 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	F'dawn l-aħħar granet
16/9/1940	Paul Borg	Qasam Barrani	43 sena	Twaqqiħ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u teħid ta' xi ġebel	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	-----
17/9/1940	Joseph Borg	L-Imgharrqa u L-Aħrax	50 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaqqiħ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	-----
18/9/1940	Vincent Debono	It-Torri l-Abjad	63 sena	Twaqqiħ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, tqegħid ta' barbed wire u tħaffir ta' trinek	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	-----
23/9/1940	Paul Gauci	It-Torri l-Aħmar	61 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire u ħsara lil sigar tat-tin u frott	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	-----
23/9/1940	John Maria Bartolo	Selmun u l-Blata	49 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaqqiħ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	-----
28/9/1940	John Camilleri	Għajn Tuffieħa	67 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	8 th Btn Manchester Regiment	£4	Fil-granet ta' qabel
28/9/1940	John Camilleri	Ġnien Ingraw u Qasam Barrani	67 sena	Barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£8	Fil-granet ta' qabel
28/9/1940	Karmnu Grima	Ta' Bokkin	44 sena	Barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£7	Fil-granet ta' qabel
29/9/1940	Joseph Xuereb	Għajn Tuffieħa	50 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	10p	Fil-granet ta' qabel
29/9/1940	Joseph Cini	Iċ-Ċirkewwa	57 sena	Imblukkat il-passaġġ	Haddiema civili mar-Royal Engineers	-----	-----
6/10/1940	Saviour Attard	Il-Blata ta' Selmun	50 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1	Fil-granet ta' qabel

6/10/1940	Andrew Cauchi	Ta' Xama'	48 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/10/1940	Vincent Vella	Triq Selmun	58 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire u twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	15p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/10/1940	Andrew Borg	It-Torri l-Abjad	70 sena	Ħsara lil hitan tas-sejjeħ bil-machine guns	1 st Btn KOMR	10p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/10/1940	Carmelo Cauchi	Għajn Żnuber	60 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	10p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/10/1940	Carmelo Vella	Ix-Xewkija u Għajn Żnuber	45 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
10/10/1940	Katerina Muscat	Ix-Xagħra ta' Barra	70 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire u twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
16/10/1940	Paul Bartolo	Tal-Qarbuni	60 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	8 th Btn Manchester Regiment	Mħux magħruf	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
17/10/1940	Victoria Mifsud	L-Armier	48 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u t-teħid ta' 20 qatta zkuk tal-ħruq	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
17/10/1940	John Maria Gauci	Għajn Rapa	61 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
17/10/1940	John Maria Gauci	Il-Hothba s-Sewda	61 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
19/10/1940	Salvu Caruana	Ta' Salini	44 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	2 nd Btn Royal Irish Fusiliers	Mħux magħruf	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/10/1940	Mikiel Cauchi	Ix-Xagħra tas-Salib	44 sena	Sigar tal-ħarrub immittfa u tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/10/1940	Saviour Vella	Triq il-Marfa	32 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	15p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
22/10/1940	Carmelo Mifsud	Il-Bajja tal-Mellieħa	23 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u nbnet pillbox	1 st Btn KOMR	£2.5	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
22/10/1940	Augustine Cauchi	Għajn Żejtuna u L-Imġieħaħ	44 sena	Tqeghid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
24/10/1940	Clara Borg	Il-Qammieħ	70 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, inbniet firing range, ħsara lis-sigar tal-ħarrub u l-ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel

24/10/1940	John Maria Calleia	Qasam Barrani	53 sena	Hsara lill-uċuħ tal-patata u ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
24/10/1940	Karmnu Borg	Triq il-Kappillan	42 sena	Ittieħed materjal tal-bini	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
26/10/1940	Pietru Calleia	Ix-Xagħra l-Hamra	55 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u ttieħed materjal tal-bini u ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	Mħux magħru f	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
31/10/1940	Anglu Attard	It-Torri l-Abjad	60 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan fl-ghalqa biex tinbena latrina	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	16/10/1940
31/10/1940	Francis Borg	L-Armier	70 sena	Hsara lis-siġar tal-harrub u l-bajtar tax-xewk	1 st Btn KOMR	Mħux magħru f	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
6/11/1940	Paul Vella	Tal-Bir	42 sena	Hsara lil hitan, karrotti, tadam, dwieli u ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£2.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
7/11/1940	Joseph Caruana	Il-Hofra	-----	Hsara lill-karrotti, qaçoċ u ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	1/11/1940
8/11/1940	Augustine Chetcuti	Il-Mizieb	50 sena	Hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/11/1940	Angelo Mifsud	Irdum il-Hmar	45 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire, hitan tas-sejjeħ u pal tal-bajtar	1 st Btn KOMR	£7	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
10/11/1940	Carmel Mifsud	Irdum il-Qawwi	23 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
13/11/1940	Anna Borg	L-Imġiebah	50 sena	Kissru sigra tal-ballut	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
13/11/1940	Annie Borg	Il-Griebeġ u l-Imġiebah	50 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
13/11/1940	Paul Borg	Irdum tal-Madonna	43 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
13/11/1940	Paul Fenech	Ix-Xagħra tal-Bajjad u s-Sellum	43 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.5	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
13/11/1940	Saviour Galea	Il-Hawli	54 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	8 th Btn Manchester Regiment	-----	Xahrejn qabel
17/11/1940	Andrew Vella	Id-Dahar u x-Xemxija	53 sena	Ostakolaw l-ghalqa b'materjal tal-bini	1 st Btn KOMR	5p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel

17/11/1940	Clement Galea	L-Ahrax tal-Madonna	69 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u t-tneħħija ta' kamra	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
17/11/1940	Andrew Cauchi	Il-Kalkara	49 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u xgħir	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/11/1940	Paul Gauci	It-Torri l-Ahmar u l-Wied tal-Għajn	66 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/11/1940	Paul Gauci	Tal-Bekkun u Qasam Barrani	66 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/11/1940	Carmel Vella	Tal-Bekkun u t-Taflija	56 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
21/11/1940	Paul Vella	Tal-Bir	41 sena	Hsarat lill-karrotti, tadam u ħamrija kultivata	1 st Btn KOMR	£1	Fl-istess ġimgha
27/11/1940	Gianni Xriha	Binja Nru 8 fi Strada Reale	-----	Hsarat fl-ucuh tal-patata u ħamrija kultivata	2 nd Btn Royal West Kents u l-membri tal-RAF	Mhux magħruf	Fl-istess ġimgha
28/11/1940	Joseph Fenech	Triq il-Marfa u s-Selmun	34 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan u teħid ta' materjal tal-bini u barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£4.5	Fl-istess ġimgha
3/12/1940	Joseph Borg	Il-Gudja	60 sena	Hsara lill-qamħ u ħamrija	Royal Engineers	10p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
3/12/1940	Joseph Borg	Il-Mellieħa	44 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, ħsara lil qamħ, xgħir u ħamrija	2 nd Btn Royal Irish Fusiliers	10p	29/11/1940
4/12/1940	John Maria Sammut	L-Imġiebah	43 sena	Hsara bi tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaqqiġ ta' hitan	1 st Btn KOMR	10p	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
9/12/1940	Lawrence Borg	L-Imġiebah	51 sena	Tħaffir ta' trinek li kkaġunaw ħsara lill-qamħ u ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£5	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
11/12/1940	Grazio Vella	Il-Hawla u Selmun	62 sena	Hsara lil sigra tal-ballut u teħid ta' materjal tal-bini	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
12/12/1940	Peter Vella	Bejn il-Ġonna ta' Qasam Barrani	32 sena	Twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u tixrid ta' ħamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£2.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel

16/12/1940	Anthony Zammit	L-Ahrax tal-Għajn	36 sena	Hsarat bi twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, thaffir ta' trinek u teħid ta' hamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£15	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
16/12/1940	John Maria Vella	Tat-Tomna	40 sena	Hsarat bi twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, lil kamra rurali, lix-xgħir u hamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
16/12/1940	Carmel Debono	Qasam Barrani	32 sena	Hsarat bi twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ, hamrija u bi tqegħid ta' barbed wire	1 st Btn KOMR	£3	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
17/12/1940	John Gauci	Wied Musa	46 sena	Hsara lit-tadam u l-lumi	1 st Btn D 'Coy' KOMR	£1.4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
19/12/1940	Paul Bonanno	Għajn Żhuber	23 sena	Hsarat bi tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£7	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
22/12/1940	Caterina Muscat	Id-Dahar	70 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ u tixrid ta' hamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£1.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
22/12/1940	Joseph Grima	Tat-Tomna	49 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ	1 st Btn KOMR	£2	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
22/12/1940	Joseph Vella	L-Imġiebah, Irdum ta' Għajn Hadid u x-Xagħra t'Għekeħ	35 sena	Hsarat bi tqegħid ta' barbed wire, bini ta' pillbox u teħid ta' zkkuk għall-ħruq	1 st Btn KOMR	-----	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
26/12/1940	Anthony Vella	Ix-Xifer ta' Selmun	52 sena	Twaqqigh ta' hitan, bini ta' kamra, hsara lil zkkuk tas-sigar tal-ħarrub u tixrid ta' hamrija	1 st Btn KOMR	£2.10	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
29/12/1940	Joseph Vella	Irdum tal-Imġiebah u l-Blata ta' Selmun	35 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaqqigh ta' hitan	1 st Btn KOMR	£4	Fil-ġranet ta' qabel
30/12/1940	Paul Vella	Il-Karbuni	43 sena	Tqegħid ta' barbed wire u twaddib ta' ġebel	8 th Btn Manchester Regiment	£1	Xahar qabel

Konkluzjoni

Kif stajna naraw diversi kienu r-rapporti ta' ħsarat mis-soldati stazzjonati viċin l-għelieqi maħduma minn bdiewa Melleħin. Milli nistgħu naraw l-iktar ħsarat komuni li kienu jsir kienu bit-tqegħid ta' barbed wire u ħsara jew twaqqiġ ta' hitan tas-sejjeħ. Minn din it-tabella nafu x'battaljuni tal-infanterija kien hawn fil-Mellieħa jew fil-viċinanzi tar-raħal.

Fit-tabella hemm imniżzell diversi battaljuni fosthom il-*1st Btn KOMR* li kien stazzjonat fil-Mellieħa; *1-8th Btn Manchester Regiment*, is-*2nd Btn Royal Irish Fusiliers*, ir-*Royal Engineers* u f'tal-inqas f'okkażjoni waħda jissemmew is-*2nd Btn Royal West Kents* u membri tal-*RAF*, li żgur ma kinux stazzjonati qrib il-Mellieħa.

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