



Heritage Malta

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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1. CAPITAL WORKS

1.1 NATIONAL FUNDS

During the year under review design for improvements to the layout in the ticketing and shop area of the **Ḥaġar Qim and Mnajdra** visitor centre was concluded and manufacture of furniture started. Such works will include the construction of a site office, new ticketing facilities and new larger shop within the existing building in order to maximize shop space and visitor flow. Improvements have also been made to the hall which was originally the cafeteria. This is now named the Ochre Hall and is being used for various HM activities and third party events. New outdoor lighting for the area around the visitor centre has been purchased and will soon be installed.

The regular maintenance of the protective shelters is planned for 2018. An evaluation of the performance and impact of these shelters is currently being carried out and will in turn inform further research and monitoring required for the assessment of the condition of these sites. The maintenance of pathways around Ḥaġar Qim and Mnajdra continued. The main paved pathway between the two sites has also been repaired so as to secure it structurally until designs for a new walkway are prepared and submitted to the Planning Authority. These will be submitted as part of an application which will include the installation of an exit-only turnstile at Ḥaġar Qim.

The room functioning as a 'picnic stop' between Ḥaġar Qim and Mnajdra has been furnished with outdoor and indoor tables and is now awaiting the installation of interpretation so that it will be opened regularly for use by visitors as a resting stop and to serve as a starting point for the two walks that guide visitors around the park's landscape.

Two additional supports to the protective shelter over the **Tarxien Temples** were installed in order to improve the headroom between the protective shelter and the walkway in parts of the site. One of the supports was subsequently removed as this intervention resulted in rainwater being retained on the shelter. Its removal solved the rainwater retention issue while the remaining support still provided the necessary headroom for visitors. Finishing touches on the shelter were conducted by the contractor; this included the better channelling of water and paint work. Maintenance work also started being conducted on the protective shelter. This maintenance work will be on-going throughout the lifespan of the structure. Electricity channels which are not in use any more have been removed from the site, while service holes have been capped in order to prevent foreign material entering them, thus rendering them useless.

General maintenance and repairs on the walkway were conducted in-house. A decision was made to extend part of the handrail of the walkway in the resting area. The illumination of the walkway is projected for 2018.

At the **National Museum of Archaeology**, works regarding the Salon roof were finalised. These mainly involved the removal of the asbestos roof and its replacement with new insulated composite panels. The internal part of the roof was also cleaned and treated and a gangway placed to facilitate access to the furthest end of the attic. Maintenance works including relaying of membrane was carried out on some parts of the roofs. The electrical supply of the entire museum has been transferred to the substation in December.

To avoid causing damage to the restored courtyard wall (abutting Cart Street) a pigeon deflection system was installed on the roof and on the roof of the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that the whole perimeter is covered. Phase two of the courtyard restoration will be tackled through a separate tender focusing on the conservation of the largest wall of the courtyard alongside the rear of 138 and 139 Melita Street.

The ex-monetary, now renamed Tancred Gouder hall, had some refurbishment works done to it including the installation of a fire retardant security door, so that it could temporarily house part of the Fine Arts collection in view of its relocation to MUZA. Some refurbishment work was also carried out on the ground floor of 138 Melita Street to house the Fine Arts office, until it can move to MUZA.

Considerable progress has been made regarding the **Għar Dalam National Heritage Park Project**. The Environment and Resources Authority, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation and the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change have now joined Heritage Malta in the implementation of the process leading to the recognition of the area as a national park. In the meantime, the project team issued an RFQ for the production of a digital survey of Għar Dalam and discussed the terms of reference for a structural survey and a remote sensing exercise. Works on the digital survey shall be concluded early in 2018 while the discussions and preparatory works for the other works are still ongoing. The Environment and Resources Authority has approved the application to replace all exotic and alien plant species with indigenous shrubs and trees, and this process is well underway. The application to the Planning Authority to modify the pedestrian access to the museum with the cooperation of Enemed Co Ltd was also approved and works to have a direct link from the car park to the museum are practically complete.

Following the collapse of the **Dwejra** Azure Window in March, Heritage Malta has also been officially enrolled to contribute in the drafting of expressions of interest and management plans for the Dwejra Park, in collaboration with the Dwejra Management Committee.

At the **Ġgantija Temples**, floor tiles were laid in the electrical hub in the Ġgantija grounds. In January, 25 Judas trees were planted as per original project landscaping plans. As part of ongoing landscaping works in the same grounds, extensive clearing of overgrowth and soil tilling was carried out in April and May. A number of young pine trees were supported with stakes to improve growth. The irrigation system was repaired and extended to reach new areas of agricultural land.

A kitchenette was installed for Ġgantija staff in February, and new aluminium cabinets were installed in the gift shop to increase storage facilities for shop merchandise. In June, new shelving and storage units were manufactured for the gift shop and various gardening equipment was purchased to facilitate the upkeep of the grounds. This included a mower, hedge-cutter and rotary cultivator. The olive grove was irrigated in August. Treatment against the red palm weevil was applied routinely on the palm trees. In November, a number of local shrubs were donated by the Dawwara Nursery (Ministry for Gozo) and planted as part of ongoing landscaping. Repairs on the air-conditioning system were carried out between October and November.

All apertures of **Ta' Kola Windmill** were renovated through the assistance of a skilled worker on loan from the Ministry for Gozo. This involved sanding, application of wood stain and finishing of external and internal doors and windows. This work will spill into 2018.

Works continued on the installation of a new lighting system at the **Gran Castello Historic House**, which is replacing the old system dating to the 1980s. This involves replacement of all wiring, and installation of low-consumption light fixtures. A number of deteriorated wooden apertures are being replaced with new ones. New wooden platforms with a Perspex base were manufactured for a number of free-standing objects on open display in the mill-room to reduce damp rising from the floor. A temporary ramp was installed in the entrance of the same mill-room to facilitate access for wheelchair-bound visitors in this section of the museum. A new set-up was manufactured for the AV room downstairs to house the interactive 3D-model of the Cittadella and the Historic House complex. This included informal seating and two stations for the interactive walk-through.

Following last year's works in the garden of the **Inquisitor's Palace**, this year's focus was mostly on the restoration of another garden elevation wall – one of the larger sections, opposite to the fountain. Restoration included cleaning, plastic repair, pointing and the inevitable replacement of heavily deteriorated stonework. The door leading to the Pannellini secondary staircase was reinstated to its original dimensions and maintenance works were also carried out on a number of apertures. Throughout August and September the water drainpipes running from the roof along one of the elevation walls in the Castellania courtyard were replaced. Along the process asbestos water drainpipes were replaced with the more traditional and inert terracotta pipes, and another small elevation wall in the courtyard (the one containing traces of a coat-of-arms) was cleaned and restored.

Works in other parts of the palace continued, including the completion of the conservation work in the small punitive cell (1749 graffiti lintel) and works in the larger adjoining cell within the prison yard. The latter included cleaning, plastic repair, pointing and the reinstatement of the original floor elevation after that these must have presumably collapsed in the nineteenth century. Power and light was rerouted to make out of this space a more flexible display area. This cell is earmarked to illustrate daily life within the prison complex. Other upkeep works included retouching and finishing works in the bedroom, Cardinal's Hall, Pannellini corridor and the secondary staircase leading to it. Maintenance works were also carried out on windows

(bedroom and Pannellini Quarters) and garden benches, and two small wooden doors were installed along the garden belvedere corridor. Works were also carried out in the staff kitchenette within the Castellania courtyard, following which orders have been placed for the necessary furniture and equipment to house decent facilities for staff and caterers who would like to organise small events and receptions at ground floor level.

Considerable works were carried out on the chapel and sacristy at **San Pawl Milqi**. The creation of a digital survey of the entire site has been awarded and work is scheduled to start in January 2018. In the meantime, restoration works on the foundations of the chapel and sacristy were concluded in November. In parallel to this, another two tenders will be issued. The one for the restoration of the external facades is currently being drafted and should be issued in the first half of 2018. More information on the internal surfaces was required before the internal restoration tender could be issued. To this effect, a conservator was commissioned to clean eight test sample areas within the inner confines of the chapel. These are currently ongoing and should provide us with information on the level of preservation of the old painting schemes of the said chapel. Desktop research is also ensuing with the aim of finding information of how the chapel was before the excavation of the *Missione Archeologica Italiana*. Preparatory works also included the removal of all the pieces from the original altar, which were transported to Bighi, where they will be conserved and any missing parts reconstructed. The management plan connected with this site is well under way.

Heritage Malta continued its collaboration with the Restoration Directorate to restore the dilapidated farmhouse and construct new visitor amenities at **Tas-Silġ**. Plans were finalised, and an application submitted to the Planning Authority, which was approved in November. Tenders for the required works should be published in 2018. Discussions were also held with various departments and officials to discuss the re-routing of the road that divides the site in two. Such discussions however are still in the very initial stages.

Works at **Ta' Bistra** were twofold. Discussions with the contractor of the works connected with the REBACA project ensued to finalise the large snags. Most, however, remain pending and Heritage Malta is currently looking at its options to make sure that the site is finished and provided to visitors at the highest possible standard. Other general maintenance works included the replacement of a number of broken roof slabs and the installation of a new AC unit. A way forward on the old lift within the visitor orientation area has also been found and preparatory works are currently underway for its replacement.

The **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths** were chosen by a local business for its volunteering programme. This resulted in the clearing of over a ton of rubbish collected from within the site and the surrounding areas.

The **St Augustine's Catacombs** cluster only saw few, but important, remedial works necessary to ensure that the humidity levels are reduced and stabilised and the site finally open to the public on a regular basis. These included works on the electrical system, which was checked and certified by a qualified engineer, and the replacement of a new skylight through which

important conservation issues were tackled. This skylight will work in tandem with a louvered window that will eliminate the need of the electric extractor currently present on the site.

Works on **Ta' Mintna, Salina and Abbatija Tad-Dejr Catacombs** were minimal and were mostly limited to periodical cleaning and maintenance works. The few works on Abbatija Tad-Dejr focused on the garden. These included the cleaning of the site from years of rubbish and the pruning of trees by workers of the P.A.R.K.S. department. Heritage Malta is currently in discussion to find a group or members of the public who could 'adopt' the garden and take care of the cleaning and upkeep of its vegetation. The restoration of rubble wall, gates and benches will, on the other hand, be taken care of by Heritage Malta. These discussions are still at an early stage.

Apart from the constant general maintenance, works worth noting at the **Domus Romana** include repairs to leaking roofs, and the installation of a new ramp leading to the main entrance. Preparation works also ensued on a number of larger projects planned to start late in 2018, including the installation of a new air conditioning system throughout the museum, the replacement of all lighting fixtures with energy efficient fittings, and the possible installation of PV panels.

Various snags from the works tenders carried out before 2015 at **St Paul's Catacombs** are still being resolved. First among these is catacomb 8, which is still closed to the public. This has occurred due to complicated structural and conservation issues related, in particular, with the stability of its roof. These issues have now been tackled and the walkway is being installed. The catacomb should thus open its doors to the public in 2018. Works also ensued to finalise and improve on the interpretation and signage within and around the site. Most were minor, but important additions to the interpretation within the visitor centre, also included the setting up of the reconstructed burial. Also of great importance was the installation of a large streamer in the square in front of St Paul's Church.

At **Fort St Angelo**, the absolute majority of the remaining snags of the ERDF 245 Fort St Angelo Heritage Experience project have been completed. Missing railings and gates have been installed, tiles and water gutters replaced, and other minor matters. A regular maintenance plan has been put in action, including weekly, monthly and yearly actions. A new service pillar has been installed at Grunenbergh's bastion, and the relocation of SMOM's electricity cable from the fort's sub-station, in order to remove the cable presently attached to the rampart walls, is in process. Other matters worthy of note include the completion of all three audio visuals in Maltese and English, and the historical reconstruction of Blondel's late 18th century barrack room diorama and of the late 19th century expense gunpowder magazine. Interpretation panels and directional signage have been increased. Fifty-two views of the fort in different periods were also printed on canvas to embellish various areas.

Restoration work on the walls of the internal courtyard of the **National Museum of Natural History** was finalised in June, while an entirely new and much more welcoming reception area in the upper courtyard was completed in August. A safety net was installed in the courtyard

leading to the Mdina Dungeons to collect any stone flaking from the deteriorating walls. Restoration work by the Restoration Directorate on the southern walls of the bastions started in summer and is still underway. The 'Islands and Eco-Systems' display was dismantled and transferred to the ground floor, and a new display 'Darwin Now' was set in one of the upper floors vacated when the Conchology display was transferred to another hall.

The reorganization of the office and library of the **Malta Maritime Museum** continued. The installation of aluminum partitioning in a number of areas of the reserve collection commenced in February. The moving of numerous bulky artefacts started in September and the installation of racking facilitated the storing of a large number of artefacts previously kept in various areas of the museum. Such works are to continue in 2018. Wooden flooring was installed in the previously inaccessible intermediate floor above the present Ancient Shipping display, thus increasing museum floor space, while a number of further improvements were registered within the museum kitchen and functions hall.

1.2 NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The required infrastructural works regarding the **Eternal Flame** monument at Castile Square were completed in collaboration with the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation and the OPM, and the monument was officially inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister on 7 July. The installation of the **Artistic Expression at City Gate, Valletta**, entitled 'Vibrance', organised in conjunction with the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation, on behalf of the OPM, has been completed in December.

Furthermore, a commemorative plaque commemorating the work of **Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Malta in World War II** was officially unveiled by the Hon. Prime Minister in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Armed Forces of Malta and the British High Commission, at the Upper Barrakka Gardens on 13 September.

Work on the monument to **Prime Minister Dom Mintoff**, to be located in Castile Square, are proceeding steadily. The monument will be inaugurated in 2018. Works on the Artistic Statement to the **Maltese Republic** are currently on hold in view of the proposal for the development of Lower Fort St Elmo, since the proposed project impacts directly the earmarked location of the said monument.

HM also provided information for the installation of interpretation stands for around thirty-five major buildings in Valletta, similar in style to those installed for the monuments in Castile Square.

1.3 EU CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

ERDF 05.019: MUŻA – The National Community Art Museum: Since MUZA is also the flagship project for the Valletta 2018 capital city of culture, the main works commenced in February 2017 following the evacuation of the building by the Malta Tourism Authority. The project is due for completion around mid-2018. A revised CBA is also being prepared to ensure the eligibility of the €10 million ERDF funding. Much energy was devoted to the implementation of this project. This included the transfer of furniture, resources and other requirements from Admiralty House to new office space at 138 Melita Street, development and completion of audiovisuals, extensive research to purchase specific museum storage facilities, feedback and compilation of data as required by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, selection of artefacts to go on display, and coordination and monitoring of progress of conservation projects.

Other actions included research for and compilation of editorial guidelines for interpretation, constant interface with catering service provider to develop a bespoke catering experience, the development of bespoke museum products for the MUZA concept store, constant coordination with architects, consultants and contractors to develop the best possible methodology for the conservation and restoration of the building, and research on the building to support conservation works on site. A researcher was purposely employed on a contract basis to undertake this task as from 1 September.

ERDF.05.022 – The Establishment of a Regional Museum for Gozo: Following a lengthy appeals process, the selection of the integrated design team was concluded and service contract signed accordingly with the designer and winner of the competition, NIDUM, in summer. The development application to the Planning Authority was submitted in August. Works are currently underway to finalise the civil works tenders due for publication in the first quarter of 2018.

On the other hand the design of the museum experience is also underway. Throughout the year, research was ongoing on the various themes to be presented in the storyline of the museum. The curatorial team held various workshops and Skype meetings with a team of museum designers based in London (TGAC and Land Design) regarding the development of themes, storyline, layout and interpretation. Meetings were held with Dr Timmy Gambin to discuss possibilities for the Phoenician wreck display. The finishes tender is due for publication in the second quarter of 2018. This project is being managed in collaboration with the MGOZ.

ERDF 05.016 – The Grand Master’s Palace Regeneration Project: The grant agreement for the project at the Grand Master’s Palace has also been concluded. A revised CBA is also being prepared since funding has been increased to €10 million. This project is being led by the Restoration Directorate in close collaboration with Heritage Malta.

The tender for the selection of the integrated design team was published twice and the evaluation process is underway. Furthermore, the 'Works tender for the documentation and restoration of the Piano Nobile Artworks in an environmentally friendly manner, at the Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta' was published and offers were received on 19 December.

In the meantime, the spaces used in the Palace for the EU Presidency 2017 requirements (January-June) and for Arraiolos non-executive EU Presidents meeting in September, including their contents, were handed over to Heritage Malta. Several of the office furniture has already been relocated for use by government ministries, the Restoration Directorate and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The process for the dismantling of the redundant structures and infrastructure is being prepared. Items of historic and/or artistic value which had been removed from said palace because of preparations for Malta's EU Presidency were placed back in their location. Other items still at the Malta Maritime Museum and Fort St Elmo will be transferred next year.

As part of the process for the restoration of the Palace corridors, all oil on canvas lunettes depicting naval exploits of the Order of St John's navy within said corridors were removed to assess if any mural paintings can be found behind said lunettes. This proved to be positive in at least two cases. Another oil on canvas painting, previously stored at the Inquisitor's Palace and recently at the Malta Maritime Museum, was found to be a missing soffit painting of the same corridors thanks to a circa 1880s photograph found at the National Museum of Archaeology. Further sections of the soffit by Nasoni were found within the stores of the former Fine Arts collection, presently at Bighi. These are to be included in the restoration project.

Considerable preparatory work regarding the restoration of the Armoury into its original place and planning the exhibition footprint was also carried out. Research on displaced items originally pertaining to the Palace and the Armoury was conducted at the National Archives, the National Library and the fototeka and library of the National Museum of Archaeology. Moreover, over twenty brass and mahogany showcases identical to those already within the Palace Armoury were brought back to the Palace from other museums. A small number of 19th century mahogany showcases, also once pertaining to the Palace Armoury collection but which were however dispersed after 1974, will also be brought back to the Palace next year and integrated within the new display once the collection reverts to its original hall.

Folklore Museum / Gran Castello Historic House: The works in converting parts of the Folklore Museum into domestic quarters dating to the eighteenth century is proceeding and nearing conclusion. As part of the improved visitor experience, the audio-visual hall was set-up with content generated via the Ċittadella ERDF project, also including stations with navigational 3D-models of the present date and medieval Ċittadella.

The **New Environmental Management System for the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum World Heritage Site, EEA Financial Mechanism 2009-2014** (c. €900,000) was officially inaugurated on 28 April. The site was re-opened to the public on 15 May. A condition assessment and biological survey aimed at documenting the current state of the site were concluded in 2016. A geological study

carried out in-house by the Prehistoric Sites Department focused on different factors which contribute to changes in the geomorphology of the site, as well as a study on the creation of a methodology for measuring the rate of deterioration of the site, were concluded this year.

Works included the following: The corrugated insulated roof sheeting covering the monument and the galvanized steel roof gutter were replaced to eliminate rainwater leakage inside the Upper Level. The thickness of the new roof sheeting was increased in order to improve the thermal transmittance of the building. The corrugated sheeting was replaced section by section such that each part of the roof that was removed, was replaced by the new material on the same day. The external wall was also insulated.

All ducting work related to the environmental control system was installed at roof level. A steel structure to support the new HVAC equipment was built on the roof overlying the reception and new equipment was installed.

Inside the audiovisual areas, a new small buffer room was built next to the entrance to the monument. This room is serving as an additional buffer for the micro-climate of the site. The environmental management system was programmed to maintain humidity levels within these separate areas at different levels so as to minimize fluctuations of the environment within the site and to give visitors a comfortable transition to the high humidity levels of the site. Both air sampling and environmental monitoring continued throughout the year. Works involved the re-configuration of the system before site opening and replacement of the computer and data management system within the visitor areas, and resetting of data monitoring equipment on the roof of the structure overlying the site.

All fabric wall-cladding and carpeting was removed. Wall-cladding was replaced by high pressure laminated panels which are durable, resist high levels of humidity and are easy to clean. Carpet flooring was replaced by vinyl tiles. The wrought iron drainpipes of a neighbouring house, which passed through the prehistoric cistern in the Upper Level and which were the cause of frequent infiltration of foul water into the site, were replaced. Prior to any works, the cistern was sealed by a timber platform so that works above could be conducted safely, while ensuring that no debris filtered through the site. Following completion of all works, including replacement of soffit, installation of light fixtures and bathroom, furniture and shop, the scaffolding and platform protecting the Upper Level were removed and the site was cleaned in preparation for reopening to visitors.

All light fittings within the site were replaced with LED fittings, and the light programme was reset. The water pumps in the cistern in the Upper Level were also tested and set to drain the cistern when water accumulates beyond a certain level. The electrical generator was also tested and is regularly maintained.

The pedestrianization of the road leading into the site continued to be discussed with the Paola Local Council and Transport Malta. The latter verbally agreed to the proposal and suggested some changes to the design. Discussions regarding this issue are to continue next year.

With respect to interpretation, an audiovisual show was created with 360 degree projections, giving the visitors an overview of the discovery of the site, its changing values and an overview of the remains found. Three showcases were purchased and several artefacts found at the site are displayed, including one of the human skulls. In addition to the audiovisual show preceding normal tours, an additional audiovisual show is being shown on the half-hour at a reduced price. This gives visitors who do not manage to book a ticket to the site the opportunity to get an idea of what the site looks like. Both audiovisual shows are provided in several languages. The project was publicized in a paper about the new interpretation facilities of the site published in HM's journal *Tesserae*. A project book was published for the inauguration and a video documentary and three short video clips about the project were also produced. In the two weeks prior to the opening of the site, several tours were organized for various stakeholders including community members, school children, university students and several others. Training for all in-house staff and security officers was conducted prior to opening the site to the public.

Moreover, HM is still in discussions with the funding agencies for projects submitted under the **EEA / Norwegian Financial Mechanisms 2014-2021**. To date, the project proposal was re-dimensioned and revised to focus on the reconstruction of dilapidated parts of the **Malta Maritime Museum** and enhancement of visitor infrastructure and the digitization and management of sections of the respective collection, namely models and navigational instruments.

Heritage Malta is also still expecting formal replies for EU-funded project applications from the Interreg V Italia-Malta programme as follows:

SPLEAION is a project being proposed by the Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department and the Natural History Department in collaboration with the *Centro Universitario per la tutela e la gestione degli ambienti naturali e degli agro-ecosistemi*. This project, with an estimated budget of €2.15M will entail the documentation and studying of seven underground sites (four in Malta and three in Sicily) which are mostly inaccessible to the general public. In Malta, these include the Salini Catacombs, Abbatija tad-Dejr, Għar Mirdum and Għar il-Friefet. The project's main aim is to conduct a number of documentation studies such as 3D modelling and remote sensing with the aim of making these available to the general public through a number of research stations in Heritage Malta museums. These stations may be used by researchers, scholars and the general public to gather information on these less-known sites, while the studies created will provide the basis for monitoring of these sites by local authorities.

ITINERA aims at developing an 'innovative' and 'inclusive' model in the management of the cultural assets, both the tangible and the intangible. This project, estimated at €1.83 million, mainly involves the creation of a virtual museum, via the documentation of a number of sites (and related objects) in Malta and Sicily, with the aim of generating a digital platform for the management and accessibility of these sites, as well as two immersive experiences, one at the

National Museum of Archaeology and another at the *Parco Archeologico di Agrigento*. The immersive experiences will narrate the story of two sister islands, comparing their convergence and divergence, from Prehistory to the Middle Ages.

HM is also currently participating in the following EU projects:

MEDIDWARFS PROJECT 2012-2017 – The National Museum of Natural History has for the past five years collaborated with the Natural History Museum of London on a research project to study the fossil mammals from Għar Dalam as part of a broader project on endemic Pleistocene mammals of Mediterranean islands. The research has been funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (UK) and the Leverhulme Trust. Work has focused on the elephants (Dr Victoria Herridge) and the deer (PhD student L. D’Souza), and has revealed the presence of several species of each. The closing conference is planned to be held in Sicily in 2018.

LIFE PELAGIC SEABIRDS

This was the final year of this EU funded LIFE project with Palermo University, aimed at habitat restoration and removal of alien species from the islands of Linosa and Lampedusa. The National Museum of Natural History was involved in this project through the senior curator who was appointed visiting consultant to the project. The closing conference was held on Lampedusa in October.

FRAGSUS – HM’s participation in the project FRAGSUS, *Fragility and Sustainability in restricted island environments: Adaptation, cultural change and collapse in prehistory*, continued during this year. As part of this project a database of all prehistoric sites was set up and the GNSS purchased through this project in the previous year was used to record the position of a number of these sites. The location of the rest of the sites on the database will be recorded in 2018. Nine crates of archaeological material were transferred from Ggantija Finds Hut to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in June, to be studied as part of the project. A Geographic Information System (GIS) purchased by HM during this year will be used to store all the data about the sites and the results will be presented at the exhibition and conference planned for the end of the project (March 2018). In the long-term this system will be used to document all data retrieved from past and future research on all prehistoric sites on the islands.

2. EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Heritage Malta's major event during the year under review was undoubtedly the exhibition entitled **Jean de Valette: His Sword and Dagger**, held at the National Museum of Archaeology from 18 March to 7 September and featuring de Valette's dagger. The exhibition was organised in collaboration with the Louvre as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, and culminated with a very popular open day on 8 September. This exhibition was immediately followed with another related exhibition (Espresso series No. 5): **De Valette's Armour and Fighting Sword Reunited**, which included de Valette's armour from the Palace Armoury, and the fighting sword and hat from the Chapel of Our Lady of Damascus within the Oratory of St Joseph in Birgu, and was held at Fort St Angelo from 8 September to 22 October.

Apart from the above, Heritage Malta organized, participated in or hosted around 250 cultural events, including lectures, heritage trails, seminars, temporary exhibitions, re-enactments, and others (refer to Appendix I – Calendar of Events). Particularly worthy of mention are the following:

Mediterraneo in Chiaroscuro – Ribera, Stomer e Mattia Preti da Malta a Roma – An exhibition featuring key works from the national collection to feature at MUŻA, organised on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency of the European Union and in collaboration with Palazzo Barberini, at Palazzo Barberini, Rome from 14 January to 2 July.

In the light of...Malta – An exhibition exploring how Malta's Mediterranean light is captured in the brushwork of both landscape and non-representational paintings by Maltese artists of different generations, organised in collaboration with Arts Council Malta, at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, from 28 January to 30 June.

Malta: Land of Sea – An exhibition highlighting Malta's history organised in collaboration with the Arts Council Malta on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, at the BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels, from 17 February to 28 May.

The Phoenician Shipwreck off Gozo, Malta – An exhibition exploring the Phoenician shipwreck discovered off Gozo organised in collaboration with the University of Malta and hosted by MEP Miriam Dalli with the support of the Arts Council Malta as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium, from 6 to 10 March.

HOMO MELITENSIS: An Incomplete Inventory in 19 Chapters – An exhibition combining the work of thirteen artists and a diverse selection of artefacts from national and private collections organised in collaboration with Arts Council Malta as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and the Valetta 2018 European City of Culture, at the Malta Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia, Italy, from 13 May to 26 November.

The Vocabulary of Maltese Style – An Exhibition of Fashion in Malta since 1917 – An exhibition organised by the MEP Marlene Mizzi to celebrate the first Maltese Presidency of the European Union, at the Lobby of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta, from 27 June to 5 July.

Mediterraneo in Chiaroscuro. Ribera, Stomer e Mattia Preti da La Valletta 2018 a Matera 2019 – A joint exhibition featuring nine key works from the national collection to feature at MUŻA, juxtaposed with a curated selection from the collection at Palazzo Lanfranchi and special loans from Palazzo Barberini, at the *Museo Nazionale d’Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata* – Palazzo Lanfranchi, Matera, Italy, from 10 July to 8 November.

Rel-Ink Indelible Narratives – An exhibition featuring personal oral history accounts of participants and images of their tattoos related to maritime history from the 1900s up to World War II, organised by Rel-Ink community outreach project in collaboration with the Malta Maritime Museum, the Library Information and Archive Sciences Department of the University of Malta and Arts Council Malta, at the Malta Maritime Museum from 7 October to 30 December. The exhibition was the completion of a twelve month research project.

Another very successful event was the half day seminar entitled ‘Fragments in context’ held at the National Museum of Archaeology on 14 October.

Heritage Malta also participated successfully in a number of **exhibitions abroad**, including ‘Valentin de Boulogne: Beyond Caravaggio’ at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York and subsequently at the Louvre, Paris; ‘Palermo Capitale e l’età di Serpotta’ at Palazzo Abatellis, Palermo; and ‘Painted in Mexico, 1700-1790: Pinxit Mexici’ at Fomento Cultural Banamex, Mexico City, and subsequently at the Los Angeles County Museum of Arts.

All the museums and sites managed by the agency were **open free of charge** to the public during various open days during the year. Likewise, admission was reduced to a nominal fee on several occasions in various museums and sites, in particular during the respective cultural events organised by Local Councils such as *Birgufest*, or free on national events such as the *Notte Bianca*. A number of events were specifically organised for Heritage Malta members. A number of underprivileged groups were granted free access, while an increasing number of local groups (local councils, parish groups, retired teacher groups, scouts, etc) took advantage of the €1.00 scheme throughout the year.

The permanent display of the reconstructed kitchen in the domestic quarters of the **Gran Castello Historic House** was improved through the purchase of a number of traditional kitchen paraphernalia. A few purposely-made pottery items were manufactured by a local potter to adorn the kitchen and bedroom set-ups. A number of information panels and captions were also designed and installed in the marine display of the **Gozo Nature Museum**.

The **Malta Maritime Museum** continued the historic dinners project, which has been renamed 'Taste of History'. Following thorough research, the museum has created a number of historically accurate menus which are intended to give visitors a different museum experience – an opportunity to taste history. Such menus are prepared on site by trained qualified chefs. Catering equipment was also bought to upgrade the kitchen operational capabilities. The museum now also has its own full set of crested chinaware and can thus function independently without the need of any outside/third party help. The Taste of History was sold on sixteen occasions to private individuals, a number of commercial companies and government departments, including the Malta Tourism Authority. This experience was also promoted during a specific event in London (World Travel Market), during which a further twelve bookings were registered, and during the International Food Festival in Mdina in July.

Two main events were organised at the **St Paul's Catacombs**. 'Mortem' was held on 12 February with the participation of a number of lecturers and *Legio X Fretensis*, who came together to ensure that this event was enjoyed by the large audience who attended. 'All Hallow's Eve' was organised on 28 October as an alternative activity during the Halloween period. An event called 'The houses beyond the house' was also organized at the **Domus Romana** on the occasion of the Medieval Mdina festival. It offered visitors a chance to visit the ruins of houses to the west of the more famous Domus. Collaboration with the Mqabba Local Council regarding the **Ta' Mintna Catacombs** was continued this year and the catacombs were opened on request on a number of occasions, including on 2 April for an open day organized in conjunction with *Din L-Art Helwa* opening Hal Millieri.

The year under review was the first complete year during which **Fort St Angelo** was open to the public, and during which it attracted a very encouraging audience of over 50,000. The Fort quickly established itself as a very popular event venue. Apart from various events held by the Agency, including some which are quickly establishing themselves as annual appointments, such as the 8 September open day, regatta viewing on 31 March and the harbour cruise and night tour, the fort also hosted the EU Presidency Summit of EU Heads of Governments at the Admiral's Hall on 3 February, twenty-five EU Presidency dinners at the Egmont Hall, and an increasing number of private functions.

Apart from launching its new logo, the **National Museum of Natural History** also launched the first Malta Wildlife of the Year photographic competition. A total of 44 entries amounting to a total of 343 photographs were submitted. The winners were announced on 10 November, when an exhibition of the best photographs in all categories: flora, fauna and marine. The exhibition will remain open till 15 February 2018, and eventually will also be on display at the Gozo Area Office and later at il-Majjistral Nature and Heritage Park. A set of postcards portraying the winning photographs was also reproduced.

Work is also currently in hand on a number of **forthcoming initiatives**, foremost among which will be the exhibition to celebrate the bicentenary since the arrival of the Schranz family of artists in Malta.

3. COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

Hundreds of natural specimens and cultural heritage items were acquired for the National Collection during this year. A full list of acquired natural specimens and cultural heritage objects (including purchases, donations and transfers), can be found in **Appendix 3** and **Appendix 4** respectively.

In total 140 **donations** were registered during the year. Worthy of particular mention is the major donation of around 25,000 memorial cards collected over the years by Mr Alfred Calleja (ranging from late 19th and early 20th century prints to recent examples), the donation of a considerable number of maritime artefacts by Mr John Dacoutros, and an early 16th century two-handed sword or *zweihänder* donated to the Palace Armoury from the private collection of Dott. Francesco Pegoiani Penna of Monaco. One also has to mention the donations of several WWII artefacts by Mr John Bianco, various fragments of a WWII aircraft by Anthony Rogers, and over 400 publications/magazines) presented by BirdLife Malta for the second consecutive year.

Moreover, the agency also invested in the National Collection through the direct purchase of a number of objects. Ninety-nine **purchases** were registered, the most significant of which are certainly the painting 'Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams' by Mattia Preti, through the Ministry for Gozo. Other notable purchases were a 1606 copy of *Chronologie Septenaire De L'Histoire De La Paix Entre Les Roys De France et D'Espagne* (Paris) by Palma-Cayet and Pierre-Victor, and a 1605 copy of *Les Propheties de M. Michel Nostradamus* (Lyon) – which both appear on a list of prohibited books burnt by Inquisitor Carbonesio in Vittoriosa square in 1609.

The acquisition of **modern and contemporary artworks** through Vote 5557 (Fund for Acquisition of Modern and Contemporary Maltese Artworks) continued. Twenty-four works of art at a sum total cost of €60,000 were acquired following extensive and lengthy discussions with the artists. The works purchased were mostly featured, produced or presented as part of various projects showcased in the cultural programme for the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. All works were acquired directly from the artist. In the case of works showcased in the Maltese Pavilion of the Venice Biennale, these were acquired before the Venice Biennale on the proviso that full ownership will be transferred to HM at the end of the Biennale. The acquired works are listed in **Appendix 2**.

The Collections Management Department continued with its incessant work to catalogue extant collections and newly acquired objects (transfers, donations and purchases), updating of inventories of long-term loaned artefacts in public buildings, checking their state of conservation, and providing artworks as required where possible. An effort was made to carry out a comprehensive inventory check of all the State owned properties. These include palaces, ministries and other government buildings that house artefacts from the National Collection on a long-term loan basis. In total, 21 out of a total of 26 such buildings were checked. The

remaining five sites include Auberge De Castile, The Presidential Palaces of Valletta, San Anton and Verdala, and Casa Leoni. These inventory checks will be finalised by early 2018. The paintings and sculptures in the new Malta Tourism Authority's offices in Smart City, which were transferred from the previous offices at the Auberge D'Italie in Valletta, were also documented.

Non routine inventory checks and documentation of artefacts was also done at Casa Leoni to photographically document and register several architectural stone artefacts that were to be returned to Villa Frere where they originally came from. Another such inventory check was carried out at Tal-Pilar Church in Valletta in preparation for a potential ERDF-funded conservation project.

The department also continued the registration of conservation projects. 105 projects were registered during the year under review. This number is lower than previous years as it was decided, after consulting all those involved, that in cases where the artefacts to be restored formed part of a group, these would be issued a single conservation project number. The details of the conservation treatments and any other documents pertaining to the project would be kept in a single file. This greatly reduced the paperwork involved, and thus saving more time for the conservators concerned.

The **Xaghra Stone Circle** Conservation Team agreed that the best manner in which to protect and preserve the site is by having it reburied. This proposal was endorsed by Heritage Malta's Board. Further studies are being undertaken to determine the geology of the site and its current state of preservation. Two geological cores were taken from different areas of the site. These will inform our understanding of the geological composition of the site and the boreholes will then be used to monitor the water levels of the aquifer during 2018. This will further inform us on the conditions that are affecting the site's preservation. The results of these studies will be discussed with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage so as to finalise the way forward for the site. The archaeological assessment of the site is earmarked for summer 2018 and an agreement has been reached with the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta whereby Prof John Betts will be supervising students in documenting the site by means of several technological methods such as photogrammetry.

With respect to **Ġgantija Temples**, the *UNESCO Intergovernmental Body Allocation Contract for funds to aid in the Studies for Stabilising the Facade of Ġgantija Temples – Phase 1 – Movement Sensors*, was renewed in September 2016. Following thorough discussions in-house as well as with external experts, the equipment and methodology for monitoring the facade were identified and the purchase and installation of the necessary equipment is underway. It is envisaged that following the monitoring of the facade, discussions will tackle the alternatives for restoring it and removing or replacing the existing scaffolding. This year's work of the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples focused on discussions regarding this project.

Since the accumulation of some dust has been observed at **Haġar Qim & Mnajdra** since the installation of the protective shelters, regular maintenance has included the dusting of megalith

surfaces, however further research is required to better understand the cause and impact of this phenomenon.

Biological studies are currently underway at **Tarxien Temples**. Flora and fauna which was posing a conservation hazard was identified and removed. Regular de-vegetation was also undertaken in order to reduce this risk. A tender for the setting up of a new environmental monitoring system in the site has been written, the tender and works will be concluded in 2018. Repairs were carried out in an area of a small collapse in the South Temple. This had been rebuilt by Zammit and was observed as being unstable for a few years. The restoration of the facade of **Borġ in-Nadur** is currently being discussed internally as parts of it were found to be in a precarious state. A detailed methodology for its restoration will be drawn up in 2018.

Two members of this Department continued their work within the **National Steering Committee for UNESCO** matters, which is convened by the Maltese ambassador on an *ad hoc* basis. A report on the Tarxien Temples Conservation Project was submitted to UNESCO and reports on progress on other projects being carried out on the sites included in the World Heritage List shall be submitted in 2018.

The Prehistoric Sites Department participated in March in the conference organised by the Institute for Tourism, Travel and Culture in collaboration with the Department of Classics and Archaeology entitled 'Archaeology, Innovation and Tourism' at the University of Malta. The Department also participated in the third international conference on the Archaeology of Sound held between 5 and 8 October in Tomar, Portugal and in the conference organized by the University of Malta and the Malta Tourism Authority, 'Niche-Market Formation for Faith-Based Tourism' in October. A curator from the department also gave a lecture on visitor management at heritage sites to students from the London Metropolitan University. Staff from the department attended a course at the University of Bologna on the applications of CT scanning in a cultural heritage setting.

In collaboration with the Department of Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites and the Conservation Department, the Prehistoric Sites curators are developing a policy on the **conservation of open-air sites**, particularly the decision process required for the identification of which conservation strategy is most adequate for each site.

The Xemxija bones which had been in storage at UCL London since the 1960s, were repatriated and have therefore rejoined the national archaeological collection at the **National Museum of Archaeology**. Preparations are also well in hand for the inauguration of a permanent coins and medals display in the first quarter of 2018.

Following the submission of the report by Masters students from the Department of Sustainable Heritage within the University College London, internal discussions have ensued to ensure that the proposals put forward regarding **St Paul's Catacombs** are addressed in the best possible manner. Works included renewed environmental monitoring within the Visitor Centre and catacomb 1, works to address issues of rising damp from the open tomb within the same

centre and works on how to improve on issues connected with the lighting within the catacombs. All actions are still ongoing. In conjunction, studies are also underway on the frescoes discovered during conservation works in catacomb 17, a collaborative effort with Ms Lara Walker, a student in the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage, who under the supervision of Dr Chiara Piasin, is also conducting studies on the frescoes and the accretions that cover them. It is hoped that by the end of these studies, conservators will have a clearer picture of the nature of the accretions and processes of deterioration so these frescoes can be preserved and conserved for future generations.

Post-excavation research also continued on artefacts recovered during the excavations carried out on site between 2013 and 2015. These include bone samples from catacomb 8 taken for isotope analysis, two test fragments sent for C14 dating, and pottery samples taken for lipid analysis. Moreover, Heritage Malta also started collaborating with Thought 3D who supplied a 3D print of one of the skulls retrieved during the same excavation, and Dr Roberto Micciche, who is currently doing a facial reconstruction of the same skull.

Conservation works at the **Domus Romana** were limited to the twice yearly cleaning of mosaics and artefacts. The display suffered considerably because of road works around the site and by the vibrations caused by the heavy machinery used, which caused the objects within three showcases to move and, in some occasions, fall over. Luckily, damage was very minimal but the three showcases affected were left empty until all the works were finished. Works have also ensued to mitigate conservation issues being created by root activity of nearby trees. Measures on how to tackle these issues are currently being reviewed. The site has recently also attracted the interest of scholarly researchers. Discussions are in fact underway with a number of scholars and universities who have shown interest in resuming excavations and archaeological research within the confines and around the site.

An important meeting was held with the *Missione Archeologica Italiana* regarding the publication programme and a renewed collaboration for the post-excavation conservation of **Tas-Silġ**. This was essential so that Heritage Malta could understand the *Missione's* current and future programme and start the lengthy conservation process of this important site, starting from the drafting of a detailed conservation assessment and conservation management plan, which shall commence in 2018.

Regular maintenance is carried out periodically at the **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths** but the site is kept closed for visitors for conservation and health and safety reasons. The site requires urgent conservation works and a working group was thus established to draft a methodology through which curators and conservators can assess a site and decide whether it needs to be backfilled or not. Given the urgency, the Għajn Tuffieħa Baths will be used as a trial site once this procedure is finalised. In April, the Department of Conservation and Built Heritage of the University of Malta invited Prof. Thomas Roby from the Getty institute to deliver a short course to students on the conservation assessment of mosaics. Mosaic pavements were cleaned and re-assessed and a clear idea of the status-quo achieved. Prof. Roby offered his assistance to discuss any possible reburial strategies that Heritage Malta might identify for the site.

Post excavation works on the materials recovered from the excavations at **St Augustine's Catacombs** have been finalised and all are ready for analysis and studies.

The request for the transfer of the villa site of **Ta' Kaċċatura**, sent to the Lands Authority in October 2016, is still pending. The project team however visited the site on a number of occasions and identified a number of areas in which emergency conservation measures have to be carried out. Plans are in place to implement these as soon as the site is transferred to Heritage Malta. On the other hand, negotiations for the purchase of the site at **Ras ir-Raheb** have reached the final stages and the Agency shall be in a position to acquire this important site in 2018.

The request to transfer the land connected with the **Bidnija Olive Grove Project** to Heritage Malta has been submitted to the Lands Authority. The termination of leases came into effect in August, however the actual transfer of title to Heritage Malta has not been affected yet. Nonetheless, Heritage Malta has met with some of the tenants of the site. The Agency's intention for the area was explained and an amicable relation established. Heritage Malta has offered its help in the upkeep of the olive grove. In the meantime, the Agency and the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta have finalised a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the site. This has also been forwarded to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage whose comments are still pending.

Research on the history of **Fort St Angelo** was continued with a visit to the National Archives UK, which resulted in the finding of 27 previously unknown historical images and plans. The site's collection is growing steadily and has increased with a further 84 items, including 67 purchases and a significant donation of seventeen items by Mr Joseph German.

Further improvement was registered regarding the storage and management of collections at the **National Museum of Natural History**. Ten new steel cabinets were purchased to house the ever growing conchology and the crustacean and fish collections, while four new entomological cabinets were purchased for the Maltese lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) collection. Around 100 trays and supporting shelving wooden supports were also acquired for the marine and land snail shells in the reserve collection.

Work continued on the digital photo-library hosting all the specimens present at the museum and Ghar Dalam. The library is being expanded to hold digital images and sounds of live specimens. As has been done with the ornithological collection, the final objective is to have all the collections available on-line. Various local and foreign students assisted in the digitisation process, with several thousands of images taken, while for the third consecutive year, Dr Steve and Mrs Noelma Shaw, retired biologists and IT specialists with a museum background, dedicated three months digitising the lepidoptera (butterfly and moth) collection and photographing over 1,300 specimens.

The conservation, identification and creation of database of the De Lucca Lepidoptera collection is ongoing, similar to the cleaning of coral specimens including consolidation of fragmented specimens (85 specimens), and the conservation and restoration of the wet collection (specimen preserved in fluids) and the preparation of new specimens. The four volunteers working on the conchological collection continued with their sterling work. A bird skeleton collection was initiated and the skinning and preparation of bird skins from the accumulated number of carcasses (2,300+) for the study collection was resumed in November. Over 700 confiscated bird specimens deposited last year at the museum were also transferred to the main collection after being definitively cleared by the Law Courts.

Two annual visits to the Filfla plateau were carried out in collaboration with BirdLife Malta; one in March to plot all active Yellow-legged Gull nests and a second one in mid May to ring the young birds. As part of a long-term project between the museum and BirdLife Malta, the main aim of these visits were to monitor and ring the chicks of the Yellow-legged Gulls breeding on the plateau as well as to continue in data gathering on the islets' flora and fauna. Field work was also carried out on Comino in April as part of the PIM Small Islands Atlas. The senior curator led a fourth expedition to French Guiana in South America in January and February, and was key-note speaker at the LIFE Pelagic Seabirds closing conference in Lampedusa on 17-22 October.

The annual monitoring of the fauna at the museum was also continued: a pair of Blue Rock Thrushes nested inside the palace and seven chicks from two broods were ringed. A set of 12 nest boxes were also set up on the museum roof as part of a project comparing fledging rate in Spanish Sparrows in urban, sub-urban and rural habitats.

Two applications for funding (Leaky Foundation and National Geographic) for a detailed study on the 'Ghar Dalam' Taurodont molars were rejected due to late submissions. The joint team consists of researchers from the NMNH, NHM London, George Washington University USA and the University of Georgia USA. A new application has been sent to another foundation.

The curatorial staff of the museum is also carrying out seasonal monitoring of the flora and fauna of the Hagar Qim Park, a lichenological survey at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra, seasonal vegetation surveys at Tarxien Temples, and mapping of 2012 and 2017 lichen communities at Tarxien Temples. Extensive curatorial support was also provided to the Gozo Museum, the ESPLORANATURA project and the Inwadar National Park.

As in previous years, a number of talks and on-site visits have been held in collaboration with Nature Trust, BirdLife Malta and the Majjistral Nature and Heritage Park, while a number of lectures were delivered to university students. Site visits to Ghar Dalam the NMNH and areas of natural importance (eg. Buskett, Ғal Far and Ta' Cenc cliffs) were also held as part of the programme.

The senior curator co/authored the following four contributions on ornithology: 'Interpreting pelagic seabird population numbers in the Maltese Islands', in *Avocetta* 41, pp.1-4; 'Is it a

Human or an Owl's Head?' in *Tesserae* Vol 5, pp. 36-39; *Il-Merill* 33. BirdLife Malta Scientific Bulletin (editor); and 'Migration Flyway of the Mediterranean Breeding Lesser Crested Terns *Thalasseus bengalensis emigratus*', in *Ostrich* Vol.88 (1), pp.53-58.

Curatorial staff of the Maritime and Military Department was asked to re-organise a store room in **San Anton Palace** turret. The identifying and re-grouping together of various porcelain dinner sets, silver and plated flatware and cutlery sets, glass and crystal drinking sets and other items mainly silver plated items was concluded in August. The items in question date back to the mid-19th century and some items such as flatware and epergnes are even engraved with the British Governors of Malta crests (a diminutive form of their coat of arms for lack of space) or by the initials GM (Governor of Malta). A couple of hundreds of pieces were assessed. Most were not even inventoried or lacked proper identification and nomenclature, since a number of each set, mainly cutlery and flatware are still being used together on the same table, which leaves much to be desired.

This matter prompted H.E. the President of Malta and her staff to consult with us for the acquisition of a proper canteen fit for the President's use in official functions. After various meetings, a pattern was agreed upon on our suggestion to befit its use and patron. The identified pattern, being the Fiddle, Thread and Scallop Shell pattern was actually favoured by the affluent Maltese in the 18th century and enjoyed such favour all around Europe and continues to do so till date. An antique boxed canteen dating to the Victorian period by an eminent London flatware maker George William Adams of Chawner & Co dating to 1841-75 was identified at a UK antiques silver dealer, who also knew a silversmith who had the original jigs for this pattern used by Adams who could thus produce any additional services using the original jigs guaranteeing the same pattern to detail. The service was delivered in time including additional new services in October to be used for the President's dinner hosting the Arraiolos EU Presidents Group. A number of the above mentioned historic services were transferred to the Valletta Palace for eventual display within the Dining Room. Other services were retained at San Anton for display purposes there.

Furthermore, a number of items at **Verdala Palace**, mainly furniture in storage, were identified to be used at San Anton Palace. A settee was found to belong to the Valletta Palace and was transferred there. The dinner and coffee services on display at Verdala Palace were re-organised and some items transferred either to San Anton or to Valletta Palaces as part of sets to be displayed in these palaces.

With respect to **libraries and archives**, the main focus at the Malta Maritime Museum was to list, catalogue and organize the library, which continue next year. Volunteer Mr Joe Meli is assisting with organizing the Dockyard archives. He has already organized and digitized printing blocks which were used in the printing of the *Bailey News*, a monthly journal for Dockyard workers in the 1960s. Work also progressed on the preparation of the Carrack publication. Professor Dauber submitted three chapters which were duly edited.

At the **National War Museum** – Fort St Elmo particular attention is being given to the lengthy process of cataloguing the various categories of archives within the collection, particularly all donations painstakingly collected mostly from WWII veterans by members of the National War Museum Association, and others collected through the years. The ultimate objective is to have all holdings listed in an electronic database. The archival collection is also being digitized, starting with the wartime government files, of which there are more than twenty. Five files have been digitized and put onto the server. All the Malta Police Reports from 1940-41 and 1943-45 were also digitized, while the photographic collection was increased with a number of photographs of historical buildings related to Malta's military history, including pillboxes at Għaxaq and Birżebbuga.

Archival material also featured during an event on 13 September to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the official presentation ceremony of the George Cross. Apart from displaying items concerning the 'Santa Maria Convoy' and the George Cross presentation, the public was also invited to interact with the archives and recognize towns and villages which were reduced to rubble during the war through photographs from the War Damage Commission series. The archivist also published contributions focusing on material from the archives in Heritage Malta' journal *Tessarae*, and attended two seminars organized by the National Archives of Malta and a conference organized by the Commonwealth Archives Association.

The transfer of the National War Museum reserve collection from the Malta Maritime Museum to Fort St Elmo continued and will be concluded next year. The displayed uniforms of the British Regiments were dismantled in March for conservation reasons, and the sand beneath the Willys Jeep and the Vickers-Terni field gun was replaced with specific tiles. The curator published *Malta during WW II*, contents of which were mostly derived from the series of features published between 2010 and 2015. Apart from articles in a local newspaper mostly about Malta and the First World War in 1917, the curator published a number of articles on various periods of Maltese military history, such as the 75th Anniversary of the award and presentation of the GC, and the capture and presentation of the Vickers-Terni field gun by the 51st Highland Division in October 1943.

Emergency clearing works of a good number of large artefacts, mostly hailing from the former Malta Dry Docks, started at the **Boiler Workshop** store at Senglea in April since the building was required by Transport Malta. Works continued uninterrupted for months. A number of items proved to be duplicates. With the kind assistance of retired engineer Joseph Pulè, it was ascertained that a full example of each was retained as much as possible, while others were scrapped. Among such items was the large vessel Temptation, which was damaged beyond any repair. A number of items (portholes, helm etc.) were salvaged from it. A large bronze propeller was placed outside the Malta Maritime Museum as part of the embellishment of the waterfront, and those items pertaining to the National War Museum were shifted to Fort St Elmo.

Eight half suit of armours complete with mannequin, two breast plates and two backplates, and eight pole arms were returned to the **Palace Armoury** from San Anton Palace and Verdala

Palace. A donation worthy of note is that of an early 16th century two-handed sword or *Zweihänder*. This was presented by Dott. Francesco Pegoiani Penna of Monaco, who during a personal visit was so impressed with the Armoury holdings that he donated this sword to the collection. Such a sword is relevant to the armoury since no less than fifty such swords were recorded in the collection; these however went missing prior to 1850 and only two survive. Such swords were used by the Knights of the Order of St John and mercenaries during the Great Siege of 1565 as is documented in the fresco painting by Matteo Perez d'Aleccio in the Palace at Valletta portraying the Piccolo Soccorso.

The Palace Armoury curator attended and presented a paper at the ICOMAM international conference and study tour in Koblenz, Germany in September. Discussions centred on the ongoing works and activities at the Palace Armoury and the presentation of the paper 'The Leather Gun – A Military Innovation'.

No tangible progress was registered towards the relocation of the religious ethnographic displays to the upper floor and the redesign of the *piano nobile* display at the **Inquisitor's Palace**. Nevertheless research was carried out in view of the resources needed to implement the interpretive vision in which a historic house approach with insights into curious aspects of daily life in reconstructed eighteenth century ambiances will unfold at ground floor, first floor and the prison complex, and ethnographic displays illustrating national religious identity, in part resulting from the presence of the Inquisition in Malta, will be relocated in the upper floor. Preparatory work in view of the interactive interpretive provision which will be implemented together with the UK based company GAMAR has progressed well and will spill into early next year. Building upon last year's initiatives, research into daily life within the Palace with an emphasis on the kitchen area progressed well. This contributed towards a number of outreach events made possible with the help of Dr Noel Buttigieg from the University of Malta Institute of Tourism, Travel and Culture.

Most of the work carried out this year centred on the new storage and display area for the national costume collection within the Pannellini Quarters. A split-level storage was installed and the first transfer of textile artefacts from Textile Conservation Laboratory in Bighi was concluded by the end of the year. As to the display area, the glass partitioning was successfully installed; this will be followed by the addition of a flexible display setup inclusive of curtains and exhibition lights next year – during which we should be having the first in a series of costume displays, thus rendering justice to years of work and investment on this precious collection. The ongoing documentation and conservation project with customized mounts for the costume collection is now focusing on the more recent donations.

Besides the purchase of copies of two prohibited books mentioned earlier, other purchases include copper ice cream and cake moulds and an early 19th century hanging wooden spice cabinet with eight drawers for the kitchen area. The collection was also enriched with a number of donations, including a collection of mid-20th century domestic paraphernalia, utensils connected with the production of orange blossom water, and 20th century framed holy images and prints among other items from the Good Shepherd Sisters of Balzan. An evening dress

(1990-2000) from Miriam Mangion, a mid 20th century pram and other domestic utensils from Catherine Schembri, an early 20th century cotton bedspread of Gozitan provenance from Dr Joseph Cassar and a late 19th/early 20th century children's miniature altar in polychromised stone from Dr Joseph Bonello. Other donations include an early 20th century touring map, black veil and bed paraphernalia with lace trimmings from Rita Attard. Two morning suits for Joseph Camilleri (one of the third generation Camilleri Paris Mode family) sewn by Paul Borg in 1947-48 were also donated by Anthony Camilleri.

Following the conference 'The Roman Inquisition in Malta and Elsewhere' held at the Inquisitor's Palace between the 18 and 20 September 2014, the proceedings containing 24 papers were published. Moreover the senior curator authored a paper entitled 'The Kuncizzjoni Electric Light Engine Room & Caretaker's Quarters: a historical outline' for the forth issue of *Tesseræ*. Another paper co-authored by the latter and Dr Noel Buttigieg, with the title 'Serving the Inquisitor's Refined Tastes: the kitchen complex at the Inquisitor's Palace', was presented on 10 November at the Malta Historical Society History Week, and will be published next year.

As to the **industrial heritage collection**, this year saw the complete movement of bus spares and memorabilia from scrapped buses from the former Malta Ship Building to warehouses in Ħal Far, where a number of other buses within the collection were relocated to outside storage until another store is built. The Malta Ship Building was completely evacuated and all relevant paperwork sorted. A number of artefacts were also secured for the industrial heritage collection. These include a cast iron lamp post base and sections of tram/railway rails found during regeneration works on Valletta City Gate and forwarded by the GHRC, a 1958 early computer which was used as a sorter and copier passed on by Anthony Cilia and Louis Darmanin, and an early/mid 20th century dentist chair and accessories used by Joseph Diacono and Edward Diacono, donated by Moira Portelli and Marisa Scerri Diacono. An early 20th century manual stand drill formerly belonging to a blacksmith in Ħal Għaxaq was also purchased from Grace Caruana, while a number of late 19th and early 20th century printing machinery were secured from the Government Printing Press and private third-parties.

4. CONSERVATION

During the year under review, the Conservation Division continued with the continuous process of conservation of items from the National Collection.

The priority was the conservation and restoration of the MUZA collection, which involved the conservation of a number of artefacts of all materials. The direct contribution of conservators was also essential for the conservation of artefacts and for carrying out courier duties for a number of exhibitions both locally and abroad.

The laboratories also hosted and supervised a number of interns, who besides being given an enriching experience also gave a most welcome helping hand with the projects in hand. The lists of projects per respective department are as follows:

4.1 PAINTINGS, POLYCHROME SCULPTURE AND WOOD DEPARTMENT

A particular project worthy of mention is the conservation of two large nineteenth century canvas paintings by P. P. Caruana depicting *St George* and *St Michael* from the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta and their respective decorative frames, following a sponsorship from the Order of St Michael and St George.

Conservation work was also carried out *in situ* where a number of cleaning trials were done mechanically to understand the painting stratigraphy of the interior, and try and recover any possible existing painted decorations. All observations and results were recorded. These were conducted in a number of sites, including the Auberge d'Italie (MUZA), the Grand Master's Palace, the Notarial Archives in Valletta, and San Pawl Milqi Chapel. Painting conservators also carried out works on a painted frieze decorating one of the halls at the Auberge de Castile.

The following list of projects was completed this year:

- St Francis Xavier, by Lorenzo de Caro – HM16/98/2016
- St Francis of Paola, by Giuseppe de Ribera – HM16/96/2016
- Icon depicting three Saints – HM16/89/2016
- St John the Baptist, Neapolitan School – HM16/97/2016
- The Musician, by Giov. Di Nicolo – HM16/8/2017
- Martyrdom of St Lawrence – HM16/99/2016
- Portrait of Paolo Corraro – HM16/56/2017
- Portrait of Padre Simon Schembri – HM16/96/2016
- Portrait of Maria Amalia Grognet, by A. Favray – HM16/58/2017
- Portrait of Cardinal Porto Carrero, by A. Favray – HM16/43/2016
- Portrait of Gio Batta Grognet, by A. Favray – HM16/57/2017
- Penitent St Peter, by P. P. Caruana – HM16/55/2017

- Airport Madonna, by Emvin Cremona – HM16/67/2017
- Ralli Madonna – HM16/85/2017
- Ecce Homo, Spanish polychrome sculpture (INQ) – pending project number
- Portrait of a Seated Woman, att. Raffaele Caruana – HM16/82/2017
- Pastoral Landscape, by Antonio Schranz– HM16/83/2017
- View of Naupelion, by Giuseppe Schranz – HM/84/2017
- Portrait of a Man, by Giuseppe Briffa – HM16/86/2017
- Portrait of P. Farrugia Randon, by Lawrence Buttigieg – HM16/86/2017
- Landscape, by F. Anivitti – HM16/86/2017
- Holy Family after Raffaello – HM16/86/2017
- Portrait at Age 10, by Giuseppe Cali – HM16/86/2017
- Self Portrait, by Edward Caruana Dingli – HM16/86/2017
- Interior Scene, by Corelli – HM16/86/2017

The decorative frames of two paintings from San Anton Palace (HM16/117/2016; HM16/118/2016) and two paintings representing St Michael and St George (HM16/74/2016) were also conserved, while a new decorative frame was produced for the painting depicting St Anthony the Abbot by Cassarino (HM16/65/2015).

The conservation of the following paintings is still underway:

- Glory of St Anthony of Padua, by Mattia Preti – HM16/66/2015
- Adonis and Venus, by Pietro Liberi – no project number yet
- Flagellation of Christ, by School of Marche – pending project number
- Christ bearing the Cross, by Guido Reni – pending project number
- Grand Master de Rohan and the Muses – HM16/81/2017
- Face of Christ, by Giuseppe Cali – HM16/97/2017
- Two paintings from San Anton Palace – HM16/70/2017, HM16/71/2017

The following wood objects were also conserved:

- Wooden floor of 19th century gunpowder magazine at Fort St Angelo – HM16.236.2014
- Grand Master's carriage [60132] routine maintenance – HM16.544.2014
- 18th century wooden cased compass INV.MM/2 REG. 34 – Bozar Exhibition
- Chest of drawers – HM16.1.2017

Other works included the inspection and minor treatment to the 16th century wooden crucifix figure and cross at Mater Dei Hospital, the inspection of the Gran Salon timber ceiling at the National Museum of Archaeology and pieces of furniture at San Anton Palace and the Grand Master's Palace, the redecoration of one pelmet for the Malta EU presidency at the Grand Master's Palace, and repair of a 19th century British silver plated coffee pot ebonised handle from San Anton Palace. Finish was applied to a 16th century polychrome pine door at the Inquisitor's Palace, a treatment programme of the wooden items earmarked for the Gozo Museum was drawn up and routine maintenance was given to the treated objects at the reserve collection of the National War Museum.

4.2 STONE, CERAMICS, METALS AND GLASS DEPARTMENT

The main focus was the MUZA project, including a number of plaster casts and large bronze artefacts by the renowned Maltese sculptor Antonio Sciortino. Other artefacts were also conserved, including silver cutlery and bowls, majolica jars and decorative artefacts. Interesting low relief wax artefacts were also studied and conserved (HM16/85/2017).

The department also had the opportunity to conserve in situ three Globigerina Limestone monuments located at the Upper Barrakka Gardens in Valletta, namely the Tragedy of HMS Orlando, Captain Rinaldo Sciberras and Fra Flaminio Balbiano (HM16/7/2017). For the first time the conservators had the opportunity to work on a life size gilt leaf cast iron statue of the Immaculate Conception found on the facade of St Barbara Church in Valletta. They also fixed missing bronze letters of the Sette Giugno and Independence monuments and cleaned the Girolamo Cassar and Francesco Laparelli monument and the Great Siege monument in Valletta.

All metal items on display at the Gran Castello Historic House, some of which earmarked for the Gozo Museum, were conserved. The department also assisted in the design and installation of a protective cover for the French street sign in the arcade of the National Library in Valletta. Other ongoing projects are the conservation of armour from the Palace Armoury and the conservation of the Megalithic Temples, involving mainly pointing of cracks, filling in and reconstruction using the plastic repair technique. Repair interventions on damaged megaliths were carried out in the North Temple of Ġgantija in September and on the central apse altar of the same North Temple in October. Curators from the Prehistoric Sites Department carried out cleaning works in the North Temple in December as preparation for the re-insertion of a broken megalith.

The following projects were completed this year:

- St Michael Archangel Devotional Stone Statue (INQ) – HM16/10/2017
- Aircraft parts (NWM) – HM16/18/2017
- British Army knife with 1937 pattern holder (NWM) – HM16/11/2017
- Decorative Cuirassier armour full suit (ARM) – HM16/37/2017
- Gilded shield (ARM) – HM16/38/2017
- Squadron shield (NWM) – HM16/69/2017
- Two full sets of armour (ARM) – HM16/22/2016
- Infantry armour suit 25 (ARM) – HM16/39/2017

4.3 TEXTILES, BOOKS AND PAPER DEPARTMENT

The major project carried out by the department was all the required assistance for the exhibition 'The Vocabulary of Maltese style – an exhibition of fashion in Malta since 1917', which was held at the Maltese Parliament in Valletta.

The other important ongoing project concerns the photographic documentation, cleaning, packing and updating the database of the costumes and uniforms of the National Collection. The first batch of conserved costumes in apposite boxes was delivered to the new storage at the Inquisitor's Palace in December.

List of projects completed this year:

- Blue strapless dress – HM16/13/2017
- Wedding dress – HM16/22/2017
- Three piece morning dress – HM16/14/2017
- Two piece black beaded dress – HM16/14/2017
- One piece dress Madame Manfre – HM16/14/2017
- One piece lilac long evening dress – HM16/14/2017
- One piece long printed dress – HM16/14/2017
- Gloves – HM16/14/2017
- Dress and bolero – HM16/14/2017
- Five dresses – HM16/14/2017

The department also assisted in the mending of curtains at the Throne Room of the Grand Master's Palace, cleaned eleven banners from the Auberge de Castile and seven flags from Parliament, stitched open slits on the Gobelins tapestries, assisted the National Archives on a number of occasions, and took uniforms from the National War Museum for anoxic treatment and treatment from mould.

The following books and paper objects were also conserved:

- Seven medals and miniature medals (NWM) mounting and paper works – HM16/12/2017
- Leaflet: *Litanija tal Gwerra*, 17 June 1916 (NWM) – HM16/17/2017
- Booklet: *L-ewwel ghajnuna lil min ikorri fil-gwerra minn Guze Galea* 2nd edition (NWM) – HM16/16/2017
- Medals: 1939-45 star, African star, Italy star, war medal, defence medal in original box belonging to Able Seaman Charles Frederick James Scadden (NWM) – HM16/6/2017
- Six medals (NWM) – HM16/5/2017
- Gouache (FSA) – HM17/2/2017

Paper conservators are also heavily involved in the conservation of flat works for the upcoming exhibition on the Schranz Family of Artists.

The main project at the **National Museum of Archaeology** this year was the start of the conservation of the decorated walls of the Gran Salon. Three external conservators were engaged on a contract basis for this purpose. The first weeks consisted of mapping, documenting and testing the materials to be used, then the actual conservation-restoration works started. Works are obviously still ongoing. The Bank of Valletta is partially sponsoring this conservation project. An official launch of the patronage took place at the Gran Salon on 17 August.

Students reading for a MSc in Sustainable Heritage at the University College of London carried out their annual fieldwork at the **Ġgantija Temples Archaeological Heritage Park**. Their studies focused on the environmental conditions inside the new interpretation centre, in order to assess whether these are influenced by modern construction materials, design, form and orientation of the new building. The students also looked into the way the new development of the Interpretation Centre and Heritage Park has changed the visitor experience at Ġgantija. Initial discussions with UCL started in March, together with the installation of data loggers for data collection. The students stayed in Gozo from 4 to 15 December. The final presentation was given on 14 December.

A number of wall alcoves in the **Gran Castello Historic House** underwent the application of a protective layer to slow down flaking and dusting of the limestone.

4.4 DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES (DSL)

During the year under review the laboratory focused its energy on proposals and procurement. Hence, less work was executed when compared to the previous years. The current backlog of work is being tackled as best as possible with the available resources. DSL concluded a total of 23 projects. These were split into ten HM conservation and curatorial projects and 13 external projects. The latter were split into three external conservation projects, three private industry projects and seven academic support projects. On the other hand, the external projects undertaken by DSL brought an income of over €4,000.

With respect to instrumentation, the major highlight was certainly the procurement and installation of the SEM-EDS. On the other hand, DSL's EEA proposal for laboratory upgrades, namely, an ATR-FTIR microscope, and XRD, were not accepted. These are needed since the two old systems have been decommissioned due to irreparable malfunctions. The most urgent is the ATR-FTIR microscope as organic materials within the national collections are not being fully protected since regular anomalous situations needing analytical support are not being catered for. In addition to this, there is a severe lack of knowledge on current projects since aside from organic media, certain pigments are not being fully identified. This renders daily analysis, research and documentation not being fully supported.

DSL was also asked to salvage the 2016-17 **IAEA MAT002** fund by way of proposing new projects. In four weeks in the first quarter, the national counterparts successfully submitted a proposal composed of three missions, which was accepted by the IAEA. In June a DSL scientist and two archaeologists (curators) received training in C-14 dating applied to cultural heritage at ATOMKI in Debrecen, Hungary; in July one DSL scientist, a conservator and an archaeologist (curator) received training in CT imaging for cultural heritage at the University of Bologna, Italy and a foreign expert, Prof. Ferruccio Petrucci from the University of Ferrara visited DSL and trained staff in radiography, K-edge applications and setups for cultural heritage.

In April the 2018-22 Country Programme Framework was written and submitted to the IAEA, thus encompassing the local plan for the next five years. Skype meetings were held with the new IAEA PMO for Malta and the planning of the new 2018-19 national project MAT1001 initiated.

The bilateral aspect of the **EEA** funded training of one DSL scientist in Ravenna in December 2016, took place in Malta on 26-28 June in the form of a training workshop. Prof Hartmut Kutzke from the Museum of Cultural History, University of Oslo was interested in receiving knowledge of Scientific Technical Photography and this balanced DSL's bilateral obligations and strengthened a new network. This initiative did in fact reap benefits as Prof Kutzke officially asked DSL if it can take the responsibility of Scientific Technical Photography diagnostics in a Norwegian 14th century chapel. Interest was submitted; however the foreign counterparts have found it difficult to fund DSL's involvement. This will hopefully reap benefits in the future as such technical knowledge is lacking in Norway.

The DSL was also involved in other initiatives concerning public outreach. In September it featured prominently and very successfully in Science in the City by organising four talks on the same night to promote material characterisation in cultural heritage via technological time machines. It also featured in two TVM programmes *Xjenzarti* in collaboration with PrevArti Ltd.

5. EDUCATION, PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

5.1 THEMATIC EVENTS AND HANDS-ON SESSIONS

During the period under review, the education and outreach arm consolidated the programme of work initiated in the preceding years, namely: (1) the creation of didactic resources for teachers and students, and (2) the production and delivery of a series of thematic and hands-on sessions within Heritage Malta's museums and sites. All sessions and resources are in full sync with the Outcomes and Outputs of the National Curriculum Framework. Furthermore, career guidance events have also been boosted, while a series of events targeting related audiences have been held, apart from *Skolasajf* activities.

The development of didactic resources has taken a three-pronged approach, being the creation of five interactive workbooks for Year 4 students (first batch in a series of 25), the production of an outreach box on Maltese Prehistory for Year 7 students (first in a series of four), and the publication of an engaging book on the foundation and makeup of Valletta for Year 9 students (first in a series of four on walled cities of Malta and Gozo).

The respective thematic and hands-on sessions were open to all schools and have over the scholastic year covered every year (ie 1 to 11). Activities were also developed specifically with the aim of targeting students with different abilities and challenging backgrounds. In this respect, worthy of special mention is the special programme for all students attending Guardian Angel Secondary Education Resource Centre held at St Paul's Catacombs for the second consecutive year. Another such programme was also held at the Malta Maritime Museum for all students attending Helen Keller Resource Centre.

Ta' Kola Windmill was the site chosen for the official *Skolasajf* programme in Gozo. A total of six organised visits of primary school students visited the Windmill during July and August. Each activity session consisted of a guided tour, followed by a demonstration on how the mill operates. The children could thus see the sails rotating in real life. At the end of the activity, the children filled out a workbook which was purposely prepared for these sessions by the Education Department and the Gozo Area Office.

Ta' Mintna Catacombs was this year also connected with a new outreach programme through which history students from the Hal Kirkop Middle School could learn about the artefacts one could find in shaft and chamber tombs similar to those found in their school. This programme also included a guided tour of Ta' Mintna Catacombs. The successful implementation of this event led to the school asking for it to be repeated in 2018 and Heritage Malta's decision to expand it to other schools in the vicinity of the catacombs.

The full list of organised programmes is included in the table hereafter:

THEMATIC AND HANDS-ON SESSIONS

Exploring Local Heritage through playful activities	<i>National Museum of Natural History</i>	16-20 January	Kinder 1, Kinder 2
Nagħmlu l-ġbejniet b'mod tradizzjonali	<i>Gozo Nature Museum</i>	26 January	Year 3, History and Home Economics
Ta' Bistra Catacombs – Maths Trail	<i>Ta' Bistra Catacombs</i>	3, 6, 7, 8, 13 - 16 February	Year 3, History and Maths
Parata Activity	<i>Misraħ Ir-Rebħa, Birgu</i>	20-24 February	Year 3, History and Performing Arts
Niltaqgħu mal-Konservaturi	<i>School visits</i>	2, 9 March	Year 7, History and Conservation
Melita Renascens Workshops	<i>Ex War Museum, Fort St Elmo, Valletta</i>	2, 6-13, 17 March	Year 9, History and IT
The catacombs at Ta' Mintna	<i>School visit</i>	10 March	Year 7 and 8, History
Induqu l-Helu ta' Żmien l-Għid	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	13- 16, 20-24 March	Year 4, Extra Curricula
The environs around Skorba & Ta' Hagrat	<i>Ta' Hagrat & Skorba Temples</i>	22 March	CCP students
Niltaqgħu man-nies tal-Preistorja	<i>Ta' Hagrat & Skorba Temples</i>	29, 30 March, 26 April	Year 6, History
Il-Malti fl-Istorja	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	30 March, 3-6 April	Year 7, Malti
Specialised Site-Interpretation Programmes for Students with Learning Disabilities	<i>St Paul's Catacombs</i>	29, 30 March, 3-6 April	All students attending Guardian Angel Secondary Education Resource Centre at Hamrun
Discovering the Gozo Citadel	<i>Gran Castello Museums</i>	24, 25 April	All Year 7 and Year 9 students attending Gozo College
Niskopru s-Sigrieti tal-Katakombi	<i>St Paul's Catacombs</i>	2-5 May	Year 7, History
Pax Romana	<i>Domus Romana</i>	9- 12 May	Year 7, History
Specialised Site-Interpretation Programmes for Students with Learning Disabilities	<i>Malta Maritime Museum</i>	2,3, 5, 9-12 May	All students attending Helen Keller Resource Centre at Qrendi
Ġmiel il-Ħrafa	<i>Ġgantija</i>	15-19 May	Year 1and Year 2, History and Drama

Muża u Immaġinazzjoni fit-Tempji	<i>Tarxien Temples</i>	17-19 May	Year 4, History and Drama
Ġmiel il-Ħrafa	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	22-26 May	Year 1 and Year 2, History and Drama
Exploring Local Heritage through playful activities	<i>Ħaġar Qim</i>	24, 25, 26, 29 May	Kinder 2, Year 1
Book Reading Sessions	<i>Various Schools</i>	6, 8, 9, 22, 23 June	Year 6, History
Exploring Local Heritage through playful activities	<i>Ġgantija Temples</i>	12-16 June	Kinder 2, Year 1
Workbook	<i>Malta Maritime Museum</i>	24,31 July, 7, 14, 21 August	Skola Sajf
Workbook	<i>Fort St Elmo</i>	25, 31 July, 8, 21, 29, 31 August	Skola Sajf
Workbook	<i>Ta' Kola Windmill</i>	26 July, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 August	Skola Sajf
Workbook	<i>Għar Dalam</i>	27 July, 3, 10, 17, 24 August	Skola Sajf
Workbook	<i>St Paul's Catacombs</i>	28 July 4, 11, 18, 25 August	Skola Sajf
L-Għid tal-Erwieħ	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	7-11 November	Year 5, Extra Curricular
Bini Mportanti fl-Mdina	<i>Malta Bookfest</i>	9-11 November	Extra curricular
Il-Malti fl-Istorja	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	13 -17, 20-24 November	Year 7, Malti
Il-Baħar u dak li jġib miegħu	<i>Fort St Angelo and Malta Maritime Museum</i>	27 November, 18 December	Core Curriculum Programme students
Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied	<i>Inquisitor's Palace</i>	4-6, 14-15 December	Year 5, Extra curricular

Career orientation programmes and participation in career counselling events were also given the appropriate attention with a more diverse and targeted programme aiming to fulfil the scope of such internships being developed. Career orientation class visits took place at Bighi conservation laboratories at an average of two classes every month, while job exposure week-long placements were held at Head Office and various sites for Kirkop Boys Secondary on 21-25 November and for Handaq Girls Secondary on 28 November – 2 December.

Other events targeting families, specialised audiences and the general public were also organized as follows:

- 1 February: Hi 5 Maths Challenge for Year 5 and Year 6 students at the National Museum of Archaeology
- 12 February: Educational activities for the 'Mortem' event at St Paul's Catacombs
- 18 May: Seminar organised on the occasion of International Museums Day at the National Museum of Archaeology
- 11 June: Educational activities for the Nesquik Family Day at Fort St Elmo
- 1 August: Organising and delivering of workshops targeted at the hearing impaired at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 29 September: Organising and hosting of a talk 'The Science Time Machine' in collaboration with HM's Diagnostic Science Lab as part of Science in the City at the National Museum of Archaeology
- 28 October: Organising and hosting of 'Xalata ta' Kitba' in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency at Tarxien Temples
- 2 November: Organising and hosting of 'Brillantini tal-Qari' in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency at the National Museum of Natural History
- 16 December: Organising and hosting of 'Xalata ta' Kitba' in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency at the National Museum of Archaeology

5.2 PUBLICATIONS

During the year under review Heritage Malta Publishing consolidated further its efforts on the publishing front in a bid to: (1) valorize and democratize in a more efficient and effective way the cultural resources in the Agency's care; (2) enhance the Agency's corporate image; and (3) sustain the development of high quality and relevant merchandise for the Agency's Museum Shops. It represented also the Agency in the annual national Bookfest for the fifth year running. Meanwhile, a significant amount of preparatory work has been carried out in connection with the production of several titles and the development of new titles due in 2018.

The titles published during 2017 are:

1. *The Roman Inquisition in Malta and Elsewhere; Conference Proceedings*
ISBN: 978-99932-57-39-4
Size: 25 x 17.5 cms / Pages: 288 / Qty: 1000
2. *Tesseræ Issue 4; Spring 2017*
ISBN: 978-99932-57-46-2
Size: 25 x 20 cms / Pages: 112 / Qty: 1200

3. *De Valette's Dagger* Exhibition Catalogue
ISBN: 978-99932-57-44-8
Size: 25 x 25 cms / Pages: 60 / Qty: 1500
4. *Hal Saflieni Hypogeum*; Project Book
ISBN: 978-99932-57-45-5
Size: 21 x 21 cms / Pages: 80 / Qty: 2000
5. *Fragments and their Contexts*; Extended Abstracts of Seminar Papers
ISBN: 978-99932-57-48-6
Size: 25 x 17.5 cms / Pages: 48 / Qty: 1000
6. *The Archaeology of Malta & Gozo, 5000 BC – AD 1091*
ISBN: 978-99932-57-47-9
Size: 29.5 x 21 cms / Pages: 112 / Qty: 2000
7. *Valletta: my city, my story*
ISBN: 987-99932-57-49-3
Size: 25 x 17.5 cms / Pages: 64 / Qty: 6000
8. *Tesseræ* Issue 5; Autumn 2017
ISSN: 978-99932-57-50-9
Size: 25 x 20 cms / Pages: 112 / Qty: 1200
9. Espresso Exhibition Series Brochures (35 x 99 cms)
De Valette's Armour and Fighting Sword Reunited

6. OTHER CORPORATE

Media activity was increased to publicise events and services of the agency. A total of 68 press releases were issued, seven press conferences organized, while 70 appearances on television programmes, 32 interviews on radio programmes, 62 articles on magazines, and 125 online articles were registered.

The number of page views of the official Heritage Malta's website continued increasing and has reached 2,008,538 (1,927,957 in 2016). The content of the official website continued being updated. **Social media** marketing was utilised to consolidate further the agency's brand activity. Facebook is by far the social media platform that is consistently being used by visitors. The number of likes has increased from 16,211 in 2016 to 18,169 in 2017 with 5,701 members in the closed Facebook group. Throughout the year the number of followers of Heritage Malta's Twitter account has exceeded 1,416 members, with a total of 563 tweets. The conference 'Fragments' was also reported live via this social media platform and plans for other live events are in hand. Instagram is another social media platform that is being used since November. A total of 109 users have already subscribed to the agency's profile since then. Paid online advertising has also been used with particular focus on the event 'MORTEM - A Roman's Last Journey' held at St Paul's Catacombs, with a reach of 15,136 users on Facebook. Another initiative using Google Adwords was the promotion of Fort St Angelo with the YouTube video viewed 34,379 times. Heritage Malta has also kept its annual appointment on TV through the participation in the TV programme *Malta u lil Hinn Minnha* on the national broadcasting station, to document events organised by the agency and the disseminate information.

As for advertising, 46 printed ads and a number of digital billboard ads mostly on particular events were published. Other advert focused on rental of venues for corporate events, services for weddings at HM venues, information about the new 'A Taste of History' venture and promotion of schemes and packages such as the membership, multipass packages and others. The agency has also participated in three commercial events – the Malta International Food Festival in Mdina, the Weddings and Events Exhibition at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre in Ta' Qali, and the leading global travel trade show, World Travel Market in London. Such advertising works hand in hand with business opportunities offered by the agency.

Several collaterals have been produced in order to service corporate activities and business ventures. This includes the printing of invitations, 40,000 location guides, 100,000 brochures, 30,000 A Taste of History flyers, and 41,000 A5 leaflets with plans of St Paul's Catacombs, Ta' Hagarat and Skorba Temples, and Fort St Angelo.

Throughout the year HM signed a number of **agreements** with stakeholders on various fronts, thus enabling it to reach out better to all its audiences, diversify and improve its services. An agreement was signed between HM and the Cittadella Management Committee that introduced a new Cittadella ticket priced at €5 (with concessions), which now includes admission to the four HM sites together with the Cittadella Visitor's Centre. A cooperation

agreement has also been reached with the Jिंगgangshan University of China regarding sending interns to Heritage Malta, and another agreement with MCAST regarding courses on Cultural Heritage Skills.

Six museums and sites (St Paul's Catacombs, Fort St Angelo, the Malta Maritime Museum, the National War Museum, the National Museum of Archaeology, and the Roman Domus) have received the renowned **Certificate of Excellence** for 2017 by Tripadvisor, the world's largest travel site.

Other agreements concerned **digitisation programmes**. Heritage Malta entered into a partnership with Google Arts and Culture in the 'Wonders of Malta' online exhibition as part of the Google Cultural Institute (g.co/wondersofmalta). The official launch took place at the National Museum of Archaeology on 29 May. With 30+ interactive stories and 28 cardboard tours, Heritage Malta invested in photographic equipment used to digitise assets within the remit of the agency. For this exhibition, more than 27 cultural institutions created over 35 exhibits sharing a total of 600 assets and more than 800 images online in collaboration with Google. Another agreement was reached with the Malta Study Center of the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library of Minnesota regarding the sixteenth to eighteenth century map and other flatworks of the MUZA collection. Digitisation work is in process and to date around 30% of the collection has been digitised. Moreover, in order to start organising all the digital assets in hand, the agency invested in digital asset management software (DAM FotoWare). The software, including necessary hardware, is currently being installed and customised in order to plan work for the next couple of years.

The **museum shops** performance was once again very encouraging. It is not only increasing the level of the experience by visitors, but also proving to be an extremely important revenue stream with which to sustain further initiatives. Two new shops were launched throughout this year at National Museum of Natural History and the Hypogeum. On the other hand minor changes were carried out to encourage sales in most of the other shops in different sites, and major changes are in the offing for the Hagar Qim and Ggantija shops. Museum shop products are being scrutinised to gauge their validity and profitability through a specific officer responsible for compiling and analysing statistics. This is giving vital information in view of particular marketing initiatives. The second area of analysis is the performance of products and their respective niches. This is proving vital not just for the analysis of performance but also giving more insight as to what customers require. HM is also investing in unique merchandise that is only available from the agency. This year saw the introduction of several items such as model soldiers, magnets, a collection of postcards and other items which are specifically sold from these shops. All this activity is being scrutinised by an internal committee made up of several members from different areas of the agency.

A new panel promoting and providing information about the **interpretation app** for Tarxien Temples was installed. Additional languages will be introduced in the app in 2018, and smart phones have been procured so that the app will be available to visitors who do not own a smart

phone. Once security measures are installed on site, these smart phones will be made available to visitors against a minimal fee.

Other IT projects included the installation of CCTV cameras, an audio guide alarm system and turnstiles at Palace Armoury, the installation of solar panels and CCTV cameras at Fort Delimara, and turnstiles at St Paul's Catacombs. With respect to software, an Intranet system, a new booking system for the Hypogeum (including mobile friendly features and the newly introduced audio visual tour), a new system for logging ICT related reports, and a new school booking system were implemented, and a new website exclusivevenues.org solely dedicated to Heritage Malta venues was launched.

As from 11 December **Ta' Haġrat and Skorba** started to be opened daily to visitors. Following an agreement with two commercial establishments close to the sites, tickets are now being sold from these venues, apart from the Mġarr Local Council.

During the year under review HM staff benefited from training and professional development, which among other included international standards for internal auditing, electronic public procurement, mobile public services, and conservation of mosaics and object from an underwater context. Many other members of staff attended conferences and specific courses relevant to their respective responsibilities, while others benefited from various forms of assistance to further their studies. HM also provided a much appreciated museum-related experience to 31 interns from all over Europe and beyond.

7. VISITOR STATISTICS FOR 2017

7.1 ADMISSIONS

Museum / Site	On payment	Free*
National Museum of Archaeology	73,325	12,595
National Museum of Fine Arts**	-	-
National War Museum (Fort St Elmo)***	85,196	8,247
Palace Armoury	85,576	10,698
Palace State Rooms****	66,447	2,119
Inquisitor's Palace	38,897	3,060
Malta Maritime Museum	21,781	5,518
Fort St Angelo	49,876	5,329
Tarxien Temples	66,653	985
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum *****	22,461	-
Għar Dalam Cave and Museum	40,243	2,974
Ħaġar Qim Temples	170,033	6,477
Mnajdra Temples	117,087	4,084
National Museum of Natural History	16,095	2,780
Domvs Romana	31,187	2,172
St Paul's Catacombs	95,495	3,220
Ta' Bistra Catacombs	907	245
Ta' Ħaġrat Temple	2,908	281
Skorba Temple	2,288	9
Gozo Museum of Archaeology	22,478	1,452
Gran Castello Historic House	19,140	1,159
Gozo Nature Museum	14,044	730
The Old Prison	37,064	1,622
Ggantija Temples	202,049	5,762
Ta' Kola Windmill	28,393	1,086
Other Sites	657	160
Totals	1,310,280	82,764
Grand Total		1,393,044

* Including school visits

** Closed – to reopen as MUZA in 2018

*** Closed mid-Jan to mid-Feb (EU Presidency) and including Valletta 1566 exhibition until 23 July

**** Closed January – June (EU Presidency)

***** Open from 15 May onwards

7.2 STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Macroeconomic environment

Malta's robust economic activity continued during 2017. Soaring tourism trends have been reflected in travel surplus. Inbound tourism increased by 16.4% over the preceding year. An average monthly increase of 17.4% was recorded during the first eleven months of 2017 against the first eleven months of the preceding year (Table 1). The English, Italian, German and French remained the most important markets. Inbound tourists were predominantly between 25-44 and 45-64 years old¹ (Table 2).

Month	Total Inbound Tourist 2017 *	Total Inbound Tourist 2016 *	% Change
January	104,069	85,439	21.81%
February	103,899	81,386	27.66%
March	141,266	115,519	22.29%
April	202,698	166,252	21.92%
May	220,918	191,967	15.08%
June	232,193	194,520	19.37%
July	256,509	229,671	11.69%
August	288,033	256,782	12.17%
September	241,378	208,321	15.87%
October	245,922	219,484	12.05%
November	167,101	142,711	17.09%
TOTAL	2,203,986	1,892,052	16.487%

Table 1

Source: NSO

Overnight cruise passengers increased almost twice over the previous year, reaching 40,759.² Tourism expenditure exceeded €1.9 million, an increase of 13.9% over 2016.

TOURIST AGE GROUPS	2015	2016	2017
0 - 24 years old	343,803	382,671	430,150
25 - 44 years old	600,364	690,082	860,200
45 - 64 years old	587,726	627,450	728,071
65 or more	251,473	265,725	255,417

Table 2

Source: NSO

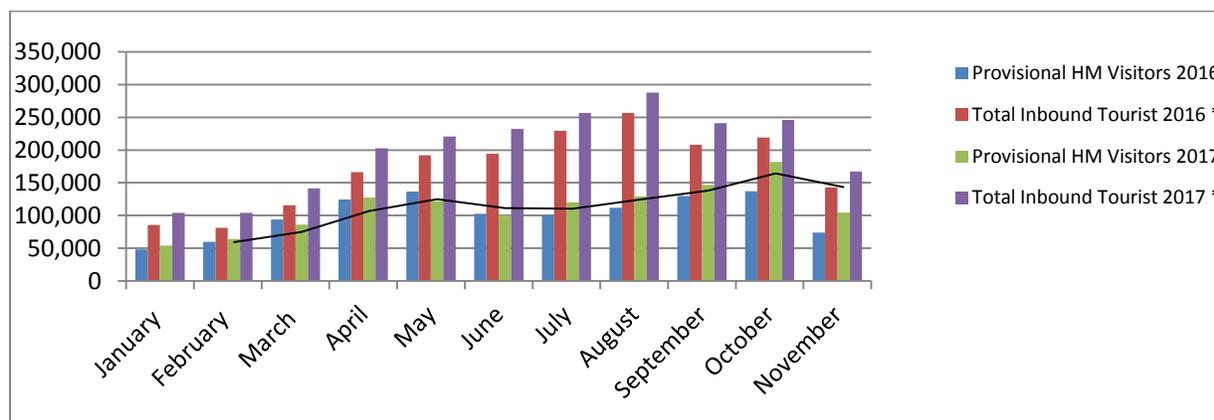
General Overview: Inbound tourism versus HM visitors

The increase in inbound tourism has been reflected in the number of paying visitors visiting HM sites/museums as depicted in Graph 1. The trend in tourism usually takes a polynomial

¹ News Release, 1 February 2018, National Statistics Office, 4-5.

² News Release, 1 February 2018, National Statistics Office, 5.

tendency. The first three months are characterised by low numbers. Between April and May the number of inbound tourists increase. This is also reflected in the number of paying visitors. In June the number of paying admissions decreases but then increases in July. Highest tourism counts are registered in August. In October HM normally records the highest counts of paying visitors. November and December are usually characterized by lower tourism activity.



Graph 1

HM Sites: Detailed analysis

In 2017 HM registered an overall positive increase of 11.8%. Paying visitors surpassed 1.3 million, whereas in 2016 they stood at 1.1 million. In numerical terms, the increase of 11.8% is equivalent to 138,000 additional paying visitors over 2016 (Table 3).

Sites/Museums	Paying Visitors	Paying Visitors	% Change 2017/2016
	Jan 17 - Dec 17	Jan 16 - Dec 16	
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	40,243	39,467	1.97%
Hagar Qim Temples	170,033	143,650	18.37%
Hypogeum	22,461	12,012	86.99%
Inquisitor's Palace	38,897	32,579	19.39%
Mnajdra Temples	117,087	99,069	18.19%
Maritime Museum	21,781	20,281	7.40%
Roman Domus	31,187	29,039	7.40%
National Museum of Archaeology	73,325	52,394	39.95%
National Museum of Fine Arts	0	12,665	-100.00%
National Museum of Natural History	16,095	15,109	6.53%
Fort St Elmo	78,894	82,023	-3.81%
Valletta Exhibition	6,302	5,606	12.42%
Fort St Angelo	49,876	14,973	233.11%
Palace Armoury	85,576	110,570	-29.21%
St Paul Catacombs	95,495	61,868	35.21%
Palace State Rooms	66,447	119,084	-44.20%
Tarxien Temples	66,653	65,512	1.74%
Gran Castello Historic House	19,140	8,034	138.24%
Ggantija Temples	202,049	183,579	10.06%
Gozo Museum of Archaeology	22,478	10,994	104.46%
Gozo Nature Museum	14,044	6,083	130.87%
Ta' Kola Windmill	28,393	22,154	28.16%
Gozo Old Prison	37,064	20,939	77.01%
Small Sites	6760	4201	-
Total	1,310,280	1,171,885	11.81%

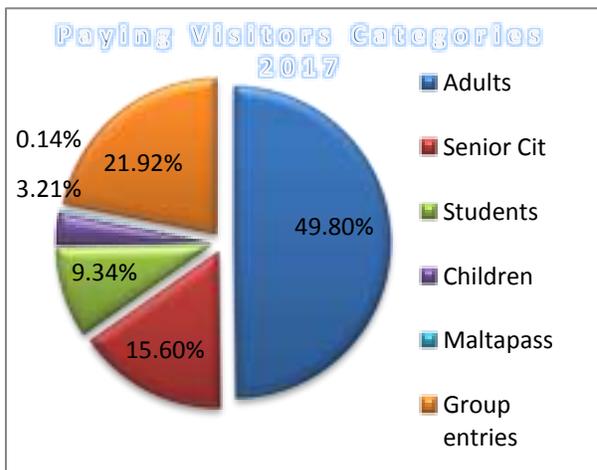
Table 3

During the period under review, some of the museums were either closed or re-opened. The Palace State Rooms were closed to the general public from January to June 2017 as the premises were hosting the European Union Presidency meetings. Fort St Elmo was also closed from mid-January to mid-February for the same reason. The Hypogeum re-opened to the public on 15 May following a major overhaul, while the Valletta 1566 exhibition closed to the public in July. When these statistical adjustments are taken into consideration the real increase would be closer to 12.94%.

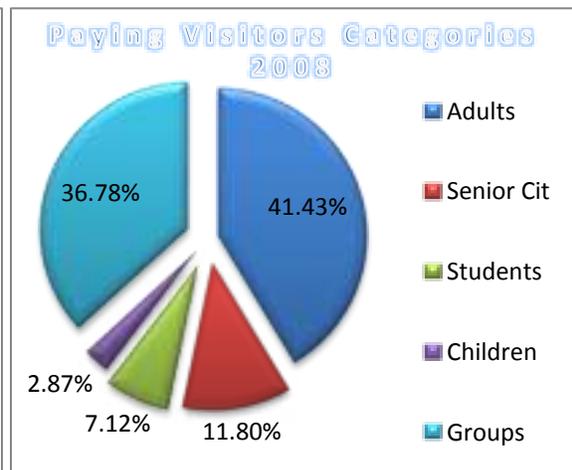
Trends in group entries and individual visitors

With the introduction of low cost airlines, new trends are emerging in the tourism industry, mirrored in the paying visitors. Since its foundation, HM has clearly distinguished between individual visitors and group entries. In addition, individual visitors were categorised into four main categories namely, adults, senior, students and children. Last year, almost 50% of the paying visitors were adults, followed by group entries (21.98%), seniors (15.60%), students (9.34%), children (3.12%) and Maltapass (0.14%) (refer to Graphs 2 & 3).

During the last decade a soaring trend in the individual visitors has been observed, whereas group entries are in decline. While ten years ago over 36% of paying visitors were group entries, this has now diminished to 21%.



Graph 2



Graph 3

Robust Sites – Paying visitors

During the period under review Hagar Qim (18.37%), Mnajdra (18.19%), the National Museum of Archaeology (39.95%), Ggantija Temples (10.06%) and St Paul Catacombs (35.12%) recorded a surge in the number of paying visitors. The latter registered the biggest increase of 35.12% and rendered an additional 33,000 paying visitors (mostly adults) on site (refer to Table 4). Paying visitors at the National Museum of Archaeology increased by more than 20,000. The increase is mainly attributed to the de Valette Dagger exhibition held between March and September.

ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS	Paying Visitor 2017	Paying Visitors 2016	% Change
Adults	50370	28823	74.76%
Senior Cit	12507	7952	57.28%
Students	11662	7145	63.22%
Children	2895	1876	54.32%
Maltapass	222	105	111.43%
Group entries	17839	15967	11.72%
TOTAL	95,495	61,868	

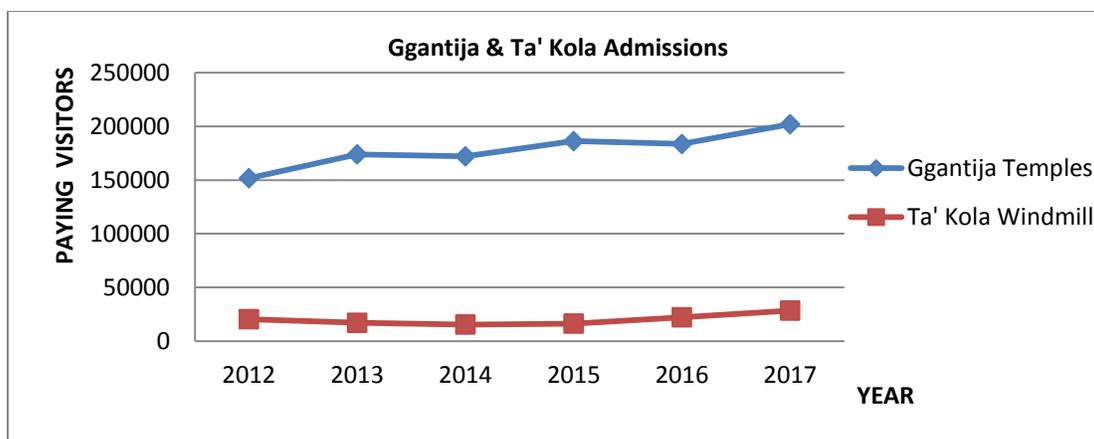
Table 4

Hagar Qim and Mnajdra also recorded higher counts than in 2016, attracting 44,000 additional visitors. Less visitors across all categories of paying visitors have been recorded at Mnajdra temples. Despite the combined ticket introduced years ago, disparities in the number of visitors between both temples remain (Table 5), especially regarding groups.

MNAJDRA	Paying visitors 2017	HAGAR QIM	Paying visitors 2017	% Change
Adults	75186	Adults	85596	13.85%
Snr Citizens	17494	Snr Citizens	22151	26.62%
Students	14001	Students	18442	31.72%
Children	3933	Children	4605	17.09%
Maltapass	0	Maltapass	214	-
Group entries	6473	Group entries	39025	502.89%
TOTAL	117,087	TOTAL	170,033	

Table 5

Positive results were also attained at Ggantija Temples. In 2017 the number of paying visitors stood at over 200,000 an increase of 10% over 2016. In numerical terms the increase rendered an additional 18,000 visitors on site. This has also been reflected in Ta' Kola Windmill, which increased the number of visitor by 28% over the previous year. This is primarily due to the combined Ggantija and Ta' Kola Windmill ticket which is having a positive domino effect on Ta' Kola Windmill. Despite the combined ticket set a few years ago, the disparities between both sites remained constant (refer to Graph 5).



Graph 5

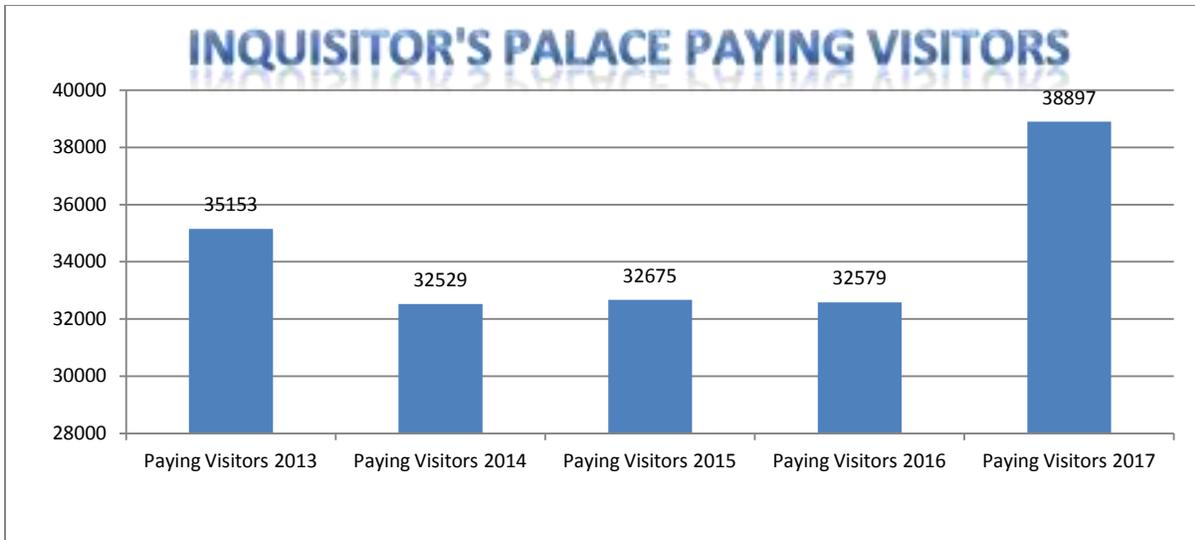
The National Museum of Archaeology hosted the Dagger Exhibition from March to September. Quite a good number of visitors visited the exhibition. These were also echoed in the number of paying visitors: more than 73,000. Similar trends had been observed in 2007, when the museum hosted two major international exhibitions. All visitor categories recorded a significant improvement over 2016. Since the Palace State Rooms were closed during the first two quarters, a large number of tour operators shifted to the National Museum of Archaeology (refer to Table 6).

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY	Paying visitors 2017	Paying visitors 2016	% Change
Adults	30240	23716	27.51%
Senior Citizens	14382	10884	32.14%
Students	5220	4624	12.89%
Children	1782	1446	23.24%
Maltapass	184	75	145.33%
Group entries	21517	11649	84.71%
TOTAL	73,325	52,394	39.95%

Table 6

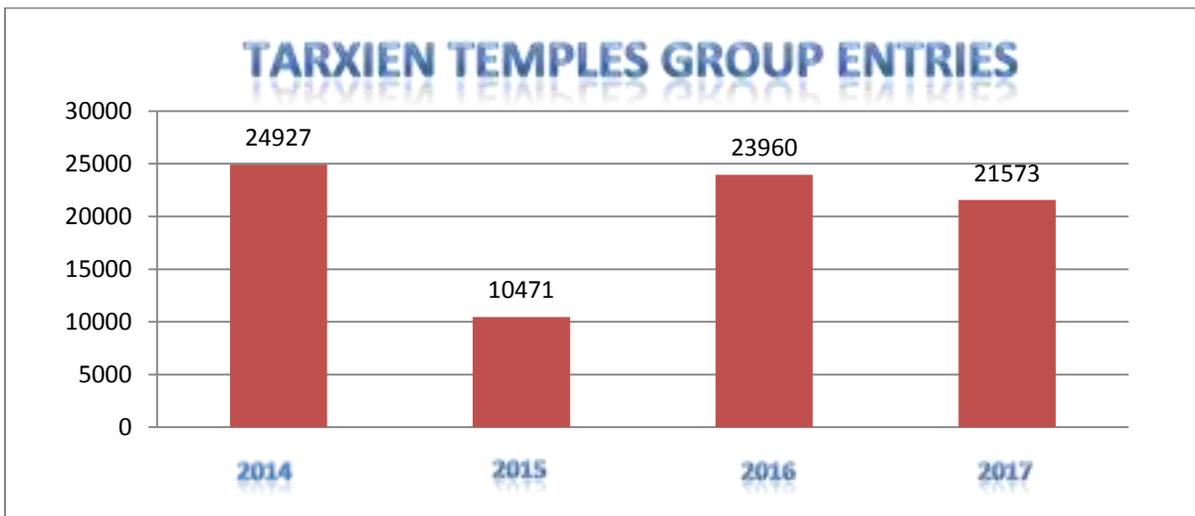
Moderate Sites: Paying visitors

Paying visitors at the Inquisitor's Palace soared by 19% compared to 2016. The Inquisitor's Palace managed to reach a bigger audience which surpassed 2013 figures (refer to Graph 6). A soaring moderate trend was observed at the Malta Maritime Museum and the Roman Domus. Percentage-wise both sites registered the same increase of 7.40%.



Graph 6

Ghar Dalam and Tarxien Temples increased the number of paying visitor by 1.94% and 1.74% respectively. It appears that group entries at Tarxien are experiencing a modest dwindling trend (Graph 7). Since Hagar Qim and Mnajdra temples are located in the southern region, Tarxien temples might be suffering from internal competition.



Graph 7

In July HM signed an agreement with the Citadel Management Committee in which both parties agreed to introduce a combined ticket which includes the Citadel Visitor Centre and all HM Citadel museums. The bulk of the tickets are usually sold from the Citadel Visitor Centre. Since its introduction the ticket has been extremely successful. Results show that paying visitors increased by 139% over the same period last year (refer to Table 7).

CITADEL SITES	Jul - Dec 2017	Jul - Dec 2016	Jul - Dec 2015	% Change 2017 vs 2016	% Change 2017 vs 2015
GRAN CASTELLO HIST HSE	14,353	4968	3407	188.91%	45.82%
GOZO ARCHAEOLOGY	16,600	6147	5231	170.05%	17.51%
GOZO NATURE MUSEUM	11,190	3479	2587	221.64%	34.48%
OLD PRISON GOZO	25,859	13749	4339	88.08%	216.87%
TOTAL	68,002	28,343	15,564	139.93%	82.11%

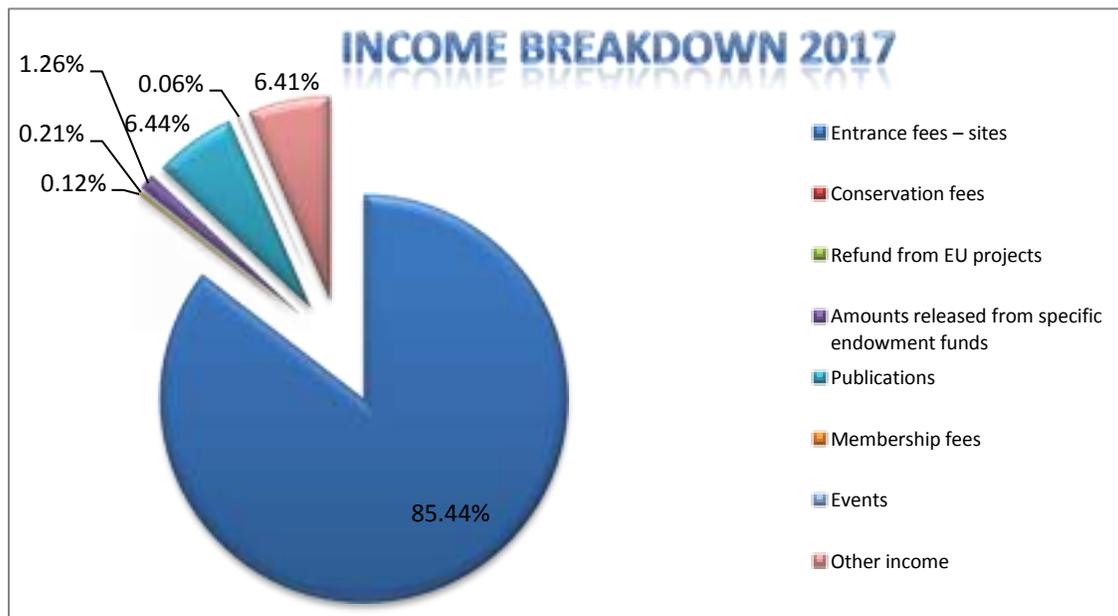
Table 7

Negative growth sites: Paying visitors

The Palace Armoury and State Rooms recorded an artificial drop of 29.21% and 44.20% in visitors respectively. The decline is directly due the EU Presidency meetings which were hosted at the Palace. In particular, the State Rooms were closed from November 2016 till the end of June 2017. Between January and May 2017, the Palace Armoury was closed an average of twelve days per month. Losses arising from both sites were recovered by larger gains registered in other HM sites.

Generation of revenue: Entrance fees

HM’s revenue model has always been based on the income derived from the sales of entrance tickets (refer to Graph 8), which have always been reliant on the number of inbound tourist. This means that there is a positive relationship between the two variables. Any increase in the number of tourist is likely to result in an increase in the number of paying visitors and vice versa.



Graph 8

Entrance fees 2017 vs 2016

At first glance revenue generated through the sale of tickets went up by 23.37% compared to 2016 (refer to Table 8). Encouraging results were recorded across most HM sites and museums with the exception of the Grand Master's Palace, the Malta Maritime Museum, and the Gran Castello Historic House.

ENTRANCE FEES³	Year 2017 €	Year 2016 €	% Change
INQUISITOR'S PALACE	155,373.22	129,383.15	20.09%
MARITIME MUSEUM	54,662.60	55,749.40	-1.95%
GHAR DALAM	149,556.01	139,258.03	7.39%
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY	77,737.20	73,425.96	5.87%
DOMUS ROMANA	149,220.88	135,421.83	10.19%
ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS	395,882.68	220,438.77	79.59%
PALACE ARMOURY & STATE ROOMS	697,221.80	900,787.60	-22.55%
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY	396,606.05	258,076.16	53.68%
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS ⁴	17.43	136,483.32	-99.99%
FORT ST ELMO	1,043,226.22	802,005.13	30.08%
HYPOGEUM	520,360.00	199,919.73	160.28%
TARXIEN TEMPLES	326,446.38	306,510.69	6.50%
HAGAR QIM PARK	1,376,014.48	1,129,030.38	21.88%
GGANTIJA & TA KOLA WINDMILL	1,166,361.00	1,033,897.47	12.81%
GRAN CASTELLO HISTORIC HOUSE	11,064.94	11,281.40	-1.92%
SKORBA TEMPLE	2,180.75	2,337.75	-6.72%
TA' HAGRAT TEMPLE	2,773.35	2,779.50	-0.22%
FORT ST ANGELO	250,203.73	54,050.00	362.91%
GOZO ARCHEOLOGY MUSEUM	36,486.86	27,598.41	32.21%
GOZO NATURE MUSEUM	0	2,534.10	-100.00%
GOZO OLD PRISON	62,418.24	57,350.82	8.84%
TA' BISTRA CATACOMBS	2,419.50	446.50	441.88%
TOTAL ENTRANCE FEES	6,876,233.32	5,678,766.10	23.37%

Table 8

Robust sites: Entrance fees

The most significant achievements have been recorded at St Paul Catacombs (79.59%) followed by the National Museum of Archaeology (53.68%), Fort St Elmo (30.08%), Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples (21.88%) and Ggantija Temples (12.81%). These sites alone generated €4.3

³ Entrance fees figures taken from SFM system, excluding Citadel Visitor Centre sales and National Aquarium sales.

⁴ National Museum of Fine Arts closed

million, rendering an increase of €934,643 over the preceding year. These enhancements were important to recover the losses arising from the closure of the Grand Master's Palace, amounting to €203,566.

As expected entrance fees from the sale of Hypogeum tickets went up by 160% compared to 2016. The Hypogeum re-opened again to the public on 15 May. The demand for the Hypogeum has always been high despite the price. To meet the demand, the Hypogeum is offering additional audio visual tours which enable the visitors to have a virtual tour of the site. Preliminary results show that the occupancy rate of the audio visual tour is still low.

Fort St Angelo posted a quadruple increase over the preceding year. Nonetheless, it has to be kept in mind that the fort opened to public on 1 November 2016. For the first two months since its opening, Fort St Angelo counted the nearly six thousand paying visitors. Between November and December 2017, Fort St Angelo recorded a marginal increase of 3.25% over the same period under review.

Moderate/mild growth sites: Entrance fees

Modest expansion in revenue was noted at the Inquisitor's Palace (20.09%), Domus Romana (10.19%), Ghar Dalam (7.39%), Tarxien Temples (6.50%) and the National Museum of Natural History (5.87%). In terms of revenue, the Inquisitor's Palace managed to increase its revenue by €26,000 over 2016. Tarxien temples experienced a similar increase of €9,000. A surge in revenue of over €13,000 was recorded at the Roman Domus. Revenue from Ghar Dalam increased from €139,258 to €149,556. A fivefold increase in revenue was noted at Ta' Bistra Catacombs. However the latter opened to the public on 1 October 2016 and it is therefore early for a full statistical analysis.

Better results have been noted at the Citadel, especially at the Gozo Old Prison and the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. Both sites attained additional revenue amounting to €13,000. A slight drop in revenue of 1.92% was registered at the Gran Castello Historic House. The Gozo Nature Museum registered a full scale drop as the museum is no longer selling tickets. However these results need to be taken in a wider context as all Citadel museums are now incorporated in one ticket which from 21 July to 31 December amounted to €129,739.

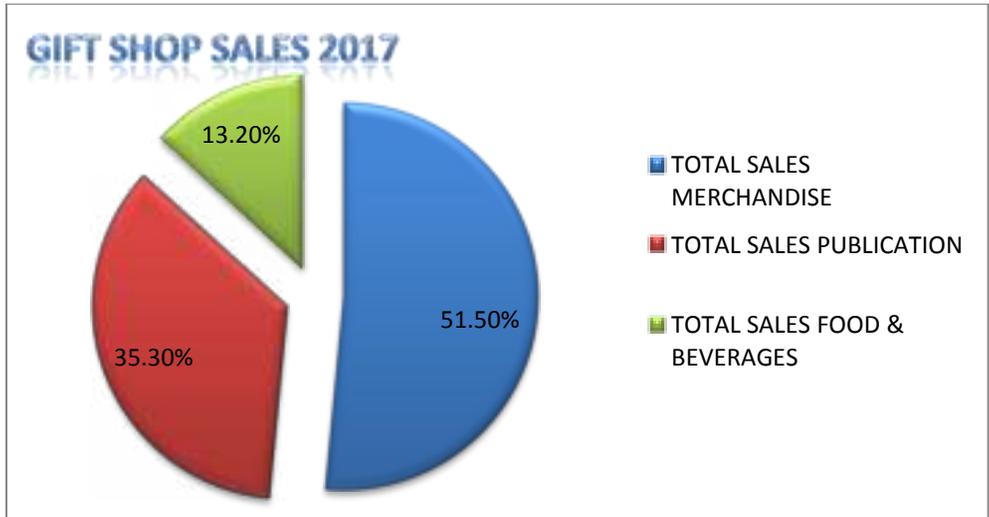
Negative growth sites: Entrance fees

The Grand Master's Palace balance bore the biggest losses in revenue, amounting to €203,566. The decrease is attributed directly to site closure due to the EU Presidency meetings. In 2018 the Palace is expected to achieve full recovery. The Malta Maritime Museum recorded a mild decrease of -1.95% while Ta' Skorba Temples (-6.72%) and Ta' Hagraat Temples (-0.22%). Entrance fees from the Fine Arts museum dwindled down by 100% as the museum is currently closed. It will re-open to the public as MUZA in 2018.

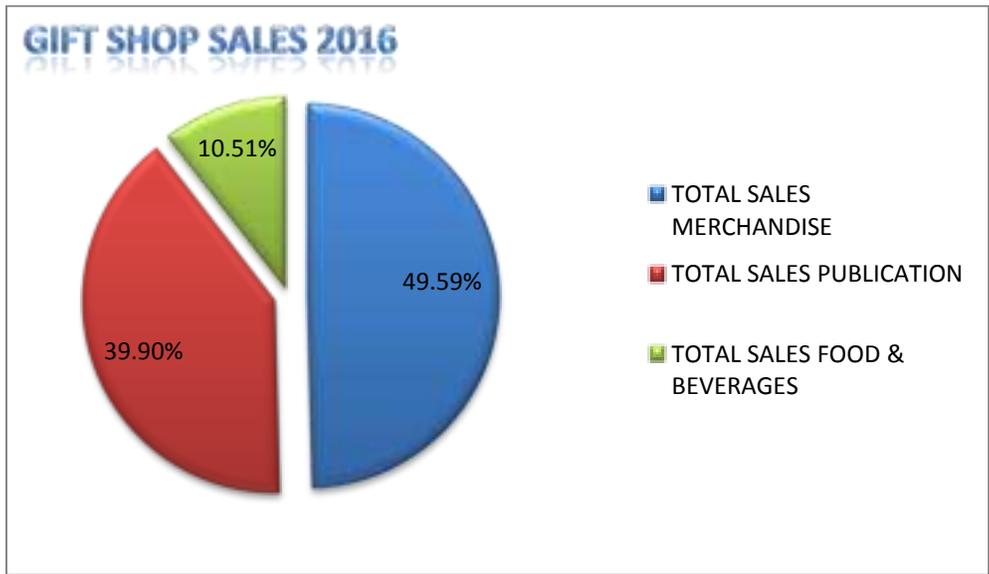
Generation of revenue: Gift shop sales

In 2013 the agency sought to increase additional revenue streams through the sale of merchandise and publications. A number of shops were set up in different museums. In 2017 all

shops increased their annual sales from €563,310 in 2016 to €705,149. A new shop has been set up at the National Museum of Natural History, where during the first months sales amounted to over €7,000. In 2017 the merchandise and the food and beverages sector have gained a larger share from the total sales. In the meantime sales originating from publications shrank from 39.9% in 2016 to 35.30% in 2017 (refer to Graphs 9 & 10).

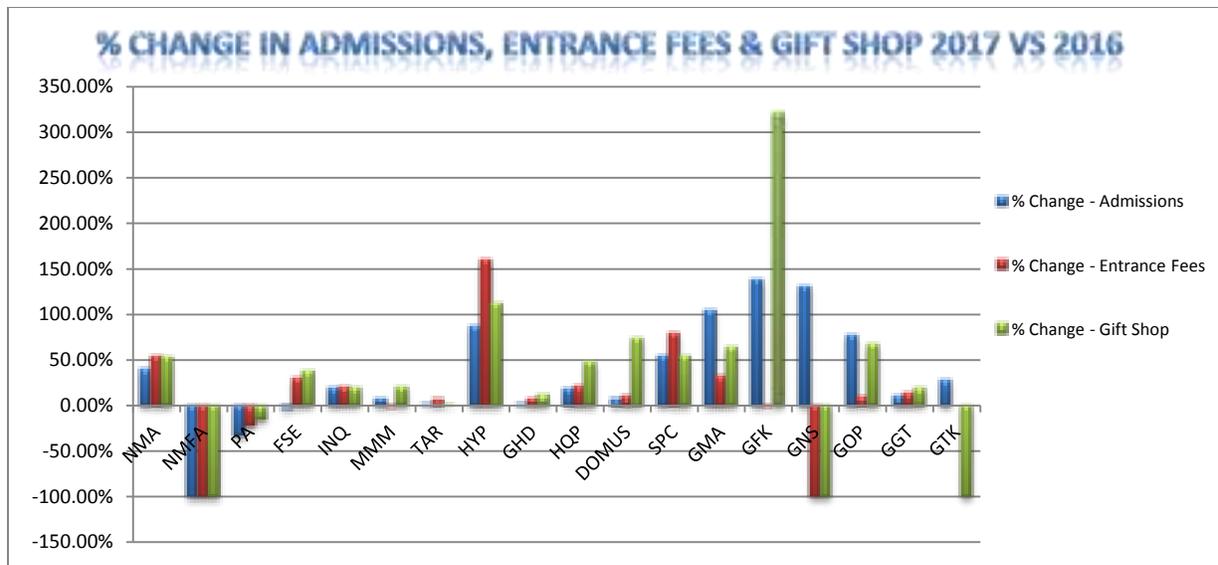


Graph 9



Graph 10

Gift shop sales are dependent on the number of admissions. An increase in the number of admissions is likely to result in an increase in gift shop sales and vice versa. The relationship between the three variables is clearly depicted in Graph 11.



Graph 11

An exponential increase in gift shop sales have been recorded at St Paul Catacombs (54.22%), the National Museum of Archaeology (53.28%), Hagar Qim Visitor Centre (47.55%) and Ggantija Temples (19.42 %). Other growth has been noted at the Inquisitor’s Palace (19.76%), the Malta Maritime Museum (20.63%), and Ghar Dalam (10.81%). Although the increase is primarily driven by the increasing number of admissions, other considerations need to be taken into account as follows.

Shop displays

The gift shop display underwent important changes that led to significant increase in sales. Previously, 70% of the displays were composed of publications whereas the rest was merchandise. By end of 2017 the display composition has been inverted. As a result of these changes, the gift shop sales originating from the Roman Domus went up by 74.18%. Change in the gift shop display has also been implemented at Fort St Angelo; however it is still premature to attempt statistical comparisons.

Merchandise, food and beverages

The merchandise and the food and beverages sector experienced a significant growth of 30% and 57.16% respectively. Sales originating from food and beverages increased by €33,844. The product range was increased to include snacks. This has left positive results especially at Fort St Elmo (+ 68%), Hagar Qim (+ 36%), St Paul Catacombs (+ 45%) and Ggantija Temples (+ 33%). Food gift items have been removed from the product range to minimize losses. Moreover, additional site-related products were launched, namely the *Suldat tal-Ordni* model and keychain. By end December both products accumulated total sales of €14,783.

Citadel Visitor Centre Combo Ticket

Significant improvement was also observed across gift shops located in the Citadel: Gozo Prisons (66.26%), the Gozo Museum of Archaeology (63.44%) and the Gran Castello Historic House (321.26%). The expansion in gift shop sales seems to be positively related with the

Citadel Visitor Centre combo ticket sales. However, the increase may be also linked with a higher number of passengers crossing to Gozo. In 2017 5.3 million passengers crossed to Gozo, an increase of 4.9% over the preceding year.⁵

Negative Growth Sites – Gift Shop

As expected gift shop sales at the Grand Master’s palace posted a negative double digit drop of 16.06%. In monetary terms the loss is equivalent to €15,000. The decrease is purely related to the closure of the Palace as explained above.

⁵ NSO News Release, Sea transport between Malta & Gozo: Q4/2017.

APPENDIX I

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

9 – 12 February: **Malta's Premiere Scale Model Exhibition** – An exhibition of fine scale model aircraft, ships, military vehicles, etc organised by the International Plastic Modellers Society Malta, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

27 May – 18 June: **Spektrum** – A multi-media exhibition by seven B.Ed students of the University of Malta, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

30 September – 28 October: A collective exhibition of **diverse impressions of Vittoriosa**, by the Studio Collective, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

2 December 2016 – 28 February: Espresso Exhibition No 3: **Edward Lear in Gozo – 150 years later** – An exhibition of Lear's views of Gozo from the national collection to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Edward Lear's stay in Gozo, at HM Gozo Area Office, Ċittadella.

8 December 2016 – 31 January: Espresso Exhibition No 4: **Reborn – A Renaissance Painting in Focus** – An exhibition of a 15th century Renaissance panel painting by Maestro Alberto, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

18 March – 7 September: **Jean de Valette: His Sword and Dagger** – An exhibition featuring de Valette's dagger organised in collaboration with the Louvre as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

8 September – 15 October: Espresso Exhibition No 5: **De Valette's Armour and Fighting Sword Reunited** – An exhibition of de Valette's armour from HM's Palace Armoury, and the fighting sword and hat from the Chapel of Our Lady of Damascus within the Oratory of St Joseph in Birgu, at Fort St Angelo.

11 November – 15 February: **Malta Wildlife Photography Exhibition** – An exhibition of the winning photographs of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, at the National Museum of National History.

EXHIBITIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

23 July 2016 – 23 July: Valletta 1566 – **Melita Renascens** – An exhibition to commemorate the 450th anniversary since the laying of the first stone of Valletta, organised in collaboration with the Malta Libraries, at the National Library and the former National War Museum at Lower Fort St Elmo.

14 January – 2 July: **Mediterraneo in Chiaroscuro – Ribera, Stomer e Mattia Preti da Malta a Roma** – An exhibition featuring key works from the national collection to feature at MUŻA, organised on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency of the European Union and in collaboration with Palazzo Barberini, at Palazzo Barberini, Rome.

28 January – 30 June: **In the light of ... Malta** – An exhibition exploring how Malta's Mediterranean light is captured in the brushwork of both landscape and non-representational paintings by Maltese artists of different generations, organised in collaboration with Arts Council Malta, at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

17 February – 28 May: **Malta. Land of Sea** – An exhibition highlighting Malta's history organised in collaboration with the Arts Council Malta on the occasion of the Maltese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, at the BOZAR Centre for Fine Arts, Brussels.

6 – 10 March: **The Phoenician Shipwreck off Gozo**, Malta – An exhibition exploring the Phoenician shipwreck discovered off Gozo organised in collaboration with the University of Malta and hosted by MEP Miriam Dalli with the support of the Arts Council Malta as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU, at the European Parliament, Brussels, Belgium.

18 April – 17 July: Temporary exhibition at the **National Archives of Malta**, Rabat, on the occasion of a number of conferences in connection with the Malta Presidency of the EU Council.

13 May – 26 November: **HOMO MELITENSIS: An Incomplete Inventory in 19 Chapters** – An exhibition combining the work of thirteen artists and a diverse selection of artefacts from national and private collections organised in collaboration with Arts Council Malta as part of the events marking the 2017 Maltese Presidency of the Council of the EU and the Valletta 2018 European City of Culture, at the Malta Pavilion, La Biennale di Venezia, Italy.

27 May: A temporary exhibition of 20th century newspapers featuring important events regarding **Malta-Japan relations** organised in collaboration with Malta Libraries on the occasion of the official visit of the Japanese Prime Minister, at Auberge de Castille.

15 June: A temporary exhibition of **Russian documents** in collaboration with Malta Libraries on the occasion of the official visit of Her Imperial Highness the Grand Duchess Maria of Russia, at the Russian Cultural Centre.

27 June – 5 July: **The Vocabulary of Maltese Style – An Exhibition of Fashion in Malta since 1917** – An exhibition organised by the MEP Marlene Mizzi to celebrate the first Maltese Presidency of the European Union, at the Lobby of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Malta.

10 July – 8 November: **Mediterraneo in Chiaroscuro. Ribera, Stomer e Mattia Preti da La Valletta 2018 a Matera 2019** – A joint exhibition featuring key works from the national collection to feature at MUŻA, from the collection at Palazzo Lanfranchi and special loans from Palazzo Barberini, at the *Museo Nazionale d'Arte Medievale e Moderna della Basilicata* – Palazzo Lanfranchi, Matera, Italy.

7 October – 30 December: **Rel-Ink Indelible Narratives** – An exhibition featuring personal oral history accounts of participants and images of their tattoos related to maritime history from the 1900s up to World War II, organised by Rel-Ink community outreach project in collaboration with the Malta Maritime Museum, the Library Information and Archive Sciences Department of the University of Malta and Arts Council Malta, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

7 October: A small exhibition of a selection of **Egyptian artefacts** from the National Collection on the occasion of Notte Bianca, at the Auberge de Castille.

11 December: Mattia Preti's **Daniel Interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's Dream** – First public viewing of the recently purchased painting to form part of the forthcoming Gozo Museum, at the Ministry for Gozo.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

7 October 2016 – 16 January: **Valentin de Boulogne: Beyond Caravaggio** – An exhibition organised by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at the Cantor Exhibition Gallery of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, USA.

25 November 2016 – 26 February: **Snuff Boxes: From Accessories to Objects d'Art** – An exhibition organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*, at Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum, Mdina.

12 January – 12 February: Art from **Fondazzjoni Kreattività** Collection Documenting 2000-06 – An exhibition organised by the *Fundazzjoni għall-Kreattività*, at St James Cavalier, Valletta.

20 February – 22 May: **Valentin de Boulogne: Beyond Caravaggio** – An exhibition organised by the Metropolitan Museum of Art, at the Louvre, Paris.

22 June – 1 October: **Palermo Capitale e l'età di Serpotta** – An exhibition designed to investigate a very exciting moment of Palermo's cultural scene, spanning from the late 1600s and early 1700s, organised by *Civita Sicilia*, at Palazzo Abatellis, Palermo, Italy.

29 June – 15 October: **Painted in Mexico, 1700-1790: Pinxit Mexici** – An exhibition of 18th century Mexican painting organised by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Fomento Cultural Banamex, at Fomento Cultural Banamex, Mexico City, Mexico.

18 August – 15 September: An exhibition of artistic objects from the **Basilica of the Nativity of Our Lady of Xagħra**, organised to inaugurate the official opening of *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Xagħra*, at the Domus Curialis, Xagħra, Gozo.

25 September – 18 February 2018: **Artisans** Exhibition at the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, Valletta.

6 October – 12 November: **The Afterlife of Coins**, an exhibition organised by the Central Bank of Malta, at the Central Bank of Malta, Valletta.

2 – 7 November: **Battle of Malta 2017** – An exhibition held at Portomaso Casino St Julian's.

19 November – 18 March 2018: **Painted in Mexico, 1700-1790: Pinxit Mexici** – An exhibition of 18th century Mexican painting organised by Los Angeles County Museum of Art and Fomento Cultural Banamex, at Los Angeles County Museum of Arts (LACMA), USA.

16 December – 25 February 2018: **The Devil of the Brush: Speed as Artistic Virtue** – An exhibition organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*, at Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum, Mdina.

LECTURES ORGANISED / HOSTED BY HM

20 January: **The conservation and restoration of a 15th century panel painting** – A lecture by conservator David Frank Bugeja, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

23 February: A lecture on Food, Drink and Carnival Floats delivered by Dr Noel Buttigieg, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

15 March: **The use of ancient DNA studies in a Maltese archaeological context** – A talk by Dr Josef Caruana as part of the Archaeology Society Malta lecture series, at the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage, Valletta.

21 April: A public lecture by the British author and broadcaster James Holland on the occasion of the **75th anniversary from the award of the George Cross** to Malta, in collaboration with *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna* and the Malta Tourism Authority, at the Ambassadors' Hall, Auberge de Castille.

25 April: A lecture on **entrepreneurship for BA Tourism students** organised by the University of Malta's Institute of Travel, Tourism and Culture, at the Conference Hall, Fort St Elmo.

23 May: **Museums and Contested Histories: Saying the Unspeakable in Museums** – A lecture by Sandro Debono on the occasion of ICOM's International Museum Day, at Victor Pasmore Gallery, St James Counterguard.

16 June: **'Going Batty'** lecture and hands-on activity on Malta's bats at the National Museum of Natural History.

28 June: **Stonehenge: New Discoveries** – a lecture by Prof Michael Parker Pearson from the University College of London, at the Ħaġar Qim visitor centre.

28 June: Presentation on the **significance of the national textile collection** and developments in recent years by Kenneth Cassar and Claire Bonavia during a conference on The Vocabulary of Style, supported by the EU Parliament, Arts Council Malta, HM and CamilleriParisMode, at St James Cavalier.

7 September: **Jean de Valette: His Sword and Dagger** – A lecture by Dr Philippe Malgouyres, Chief Curator of the Department of Art Objects at the Musée du Louvre, Paris, at the National Museum of Archeology.

1 December: **Regulating the Public Commerce of Women in Hospitaller Malta: The Grand Masters' Bonus Pater Familias Approach**, by Christine Muscat, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

6 December: **Nature Behind Glass** – A lecture by the senior curator on the history of the National Museum of National History in Malta and about HM's on-going work related to natural heritage, at the National Museum of Natural History.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

16 – 20 January: **Let's Play with Birds and Bats** – A workshop for kindergarten students at the National Museum of Natural History.

3 February: **Ġbejniet** – An activity for students including a brief explanation on milk and milk products followed by a brief tour of the museum, a demonstration on how cheeselets are manufactured and a hands-on activity, at the Gozo Nature Museum.

3 – 16 February: **Niskopru l-Matematika fil-Katakombi Rumani** - Maths Trail – An activity for students designed to link and integrate with history consisting of observing shapes, recognizing numbers, practising measuring, sequence and estimating exercises while walking through Ta' Bistra Catacombs.

6 February: Official **presentation of a collection of thousands of holy pictures** (memorial cards) to the national collection by Mr Alfred Calleja, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

11 February: **Naxxar Heritage Walk** – An event for HM members consisting of a visit to Naxxar's parish church, its museum and viewing the surrounding from atop the church's belfry and a short walk along the oldest part of the village.

12 February: **MORTEM – A Roman's Last Journey** – Activities at St Paul's Catacombs included re-enactments, lectures, food stalls serving food prepared according to recipes of the time, treasure hunts for children and Roman parades by the *Legio X Fretensis*.

20 – 24 February: **Il-Parata** – An activity for students to promote awareness on the influence of the Great Siege in Maltese daily life, including a tour of Birgu, a brief explanation on the connection of the Carnival Parade with the Great Siege followed by a re-enactment of the traditional Carnival Parade, at Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu.

2 & 9 March: **Conservation Outreach Career Talks** – Talks regarding the career of a conservator held at St Thomas Moore College Żejtun Secondary School and St Nicholas College Rabat.

2 – 17 March: **Melita Renascens** Workshops – A guided tour of the National Library followed by a theatrical performance on the history of Valletta by the Drama Unit, workshop activities included jigsaw puzzle map of Valletta, a treasure hunt and Caption It! competition on Facebook page of HM Education and Outreach, at the Ex War Museum, Fort St Elmo.

10 March: **Outreach activities** for students of Kullegġ San Benedettu Ħal Kirkop focused on death practices of the Romans, including a talk by curator David Cardona followed by a visit to Ta' Mintna Catacombs.

13-24 March: **Induqu l-Ħelu tal-Għid** – An activity for students consisting of a guided tour of the museum's permanent display dealing with this topic, followed by a hands-on activity to prepare *kwareżimal* and the Easter Bunny, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 – 21 March: Guided tours of **Mnajdra Temples** and the visitor centre on the occasion of the Spring equinox.

22 March: **Learning Support Zone Sessions** with HM: Maintenance Programme A – An activity for students including a tour of Skorba and Ta' Ħaġrat Temples and trekking through Mġarr to Ta' Lippija and the Golden Sands area.

26 March: **Natural, Historical and Archaeological Heritage Trail** – A visit to Tas-Silġ and Borġ In-Nadur Temples followed by a guided tour of Għar Dalam.

29 March: ***Niltaqgħu man-nies tal-Preistorja*** – An activity for students including a short tour of both prehistoric sites followed by three workshops, at Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba Temples.

30 March, 1-4 April, 13-17, 20-24 November: ***Folklor Malti, Ilbies u Superstizzjoni*** – An activity for students focusing on the Maltese language, including a presentation on the cotton and wool industry; students re-enacting an actual inquisition case in period costumes; and a short tour of Bighi and the Inquisitor's Palace.

31 March: A guided tour of the **upper part of Fort St Angelo** managed by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta while watching the traditional Regatta from Ferramolino's Cavalier.

3, 6-10 April: Specialised **Site-Interpretation Programmes** for Students with Learning Disabilities – A specialised educational programme organised for all students attending Guardian Angel Resource Centre at Hamrun. The students re-enacted of a Roman burial, workshops, and a tour of St Paul's Catacombs.

23 April: **Heritage trail** for HM members in Gozo, visiting Ramla l-Ħamra, the Xagħra Circle and Santa Verna temple.

24 April: Year 8 – **Gozo Citadel Multi-Disciplinary Workshops** – A number of thematic workshops and activities for students, at the Ċittadella.

25 April: Year 10 – **Gozo Citadel Multi-Disciplinary Workshops** – A number of thematic workshops and activities aimed for students, at the Ċittadella.

26 April: ***Niltaqgħu man-Nies tal-Preistorja*** – A number of workshops for students to gain a detailed insight into prehistoric life in Malta and a tour, at Ta' Ħaġrat/Skorba Temples.

28 – 29 April: **Dark Tales of Fort St Angelo** – An animated tour based on tales of mystery and the supernatural, at Fort St Angelo.

1 May: **The Houses beyond the House** – A tour of the remains behind the Domvs Romana.

2-5, 8-10 May: ***Il-Ħajja fuq il-Baħar*** – An educational activity for students attending Helen Keller Resource Group, focusing on life at sea during the Order of St John's period, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

2, 4 May: **Niskopru s-Sigrieti tal-Katakombi ta' San Pawl** – An educational workshop for students, focusing on history and geography, followed by a site visit at St Paul's Catacombs.

9-11 May: **Pax Romana** – An educational programme for students including various activities, a play and a guided tour, at the Domvs Romana.

15 May: **CaptionIt! Winners Tour** – The winners of this competition were given special tours of the de Valette Dagger exhibition, of the book restoration unit within the National Library of Malta and a hands-on activity at the Palace Armoury.

17-19 May: **Muza u Immaginazzjoni fit-Tempji** – An educational workshop divided into various activities, at Tarxien Temples.

19-20, 22-23 May: **Ġmiel il-Ħraġa** – During this educational event a Maltese fable is read to highlight different aspects of Maltese heritage, at Ġgantija.

23-26, 29-31 May: **Ġmiel il-Ħraġa** – During this educational event a Maltese fable is read to highlight different aspects of Maltese heritage, while students had the opportunity to taste traditional Maltese pastries related to the fable, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

25-26, 29-30 May: **Nivvjaġġaw Lura fiz-Żmien** – A series of workshops for kindergarten students to acquire knowledge, skills and a positive attitude towards heritage, at Ħaġar Qim Temples.

26 May: **Job Exposure Certificate** presentation at the Admiral's Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo.

8 June: A **Book Reading Session** to celebrate World Book Day organised for Year 5 and 6 students by reading extracts from HM's publication *L-Ewwel 35,000,000 Miljun Sena minn Ħajti*, at Bormla Primary School.

9 June: A **Book Reading Session** to celebrate World Book Day for Year 5 and 6 students by reading extracts from HM's publication *L-Ewwel 35,000,000 Miljun Sena minn Ħajti*, at the Immaculate Conception School.

9 June: **Għar Dalam under a Full Moon** – A moonlight tour of the site and cave followed by refreshments, at Għar Dalam.

12-16 June: **Nivvjaġġaw Lura fiz-Żmien** – A series of workshops for Kindergarten students to acquire knowledge, skills and a positive attitude towards our heritage, at Ġgantija Temples.

19 June: **Book Reading Sessions** to celebrate World Book Day for Year 5 and 6 students by reading extracts from HM's publication *L-Ewwel 35,000,000 Miljun Sena minn Ħajti*, at Kerċem, San Lawrenz and Xewkija Primary Schools.

20 June: **Book Reading Sessions** to celebrate World Book Day for Year 5 and 6 students by reading extracts from HM's publication *L-Ewwel 35,000,000 Miljun Sena minn Hajti*, at Għarb Primary School.

21 – 22 June: **Guided tours of Mnajdra, Ħaġar Qim** and the visitor centre on the occasion of the summer solstice.

22 June: **Pane di Spagna in 17th and 18th century Malta** – A historic cook-along session and presentation at the Inquisitor's Palace.

23 June: **Commemoration of the fall of Fort St Elmo** in 1565 – The annual commemorative mass to remember and honour the fallen heroes who died at the fort, at St Anne's Chapel, Fort St Elmo.

30 June: **Dark Tales of the Citadel (Gozo)** – An animated guided tour of the Citadel, at dusk, based on eerie tales of the Citadel and its surroundings.

12 July: **Youth residence (Mount Carmel Hospital)** event held at the Admiral's Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo

14 July: **Sunset Tour** – A guided tour of the Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park in Qrendi.

25 July: Official presentation of a **donation of several maritime artefacts** by John Dacoutros, at the St Angelo Hall, Malta Maritime Museum.

27 July: **Harbour Cruise and Tour of Fort St Angelo** - A harbour cruise focusing on the Grand Harbour's fortifications during the Order of St John's and British period, followed by a tour of Fort St Angelo.

4 August: **Filfla Cruise** – Around Filfla boat trip, departing from Sliema ferries, indicating important special features along the coast, such as fortifications and heritage sites.

17 August: Official **presentation of BOV corporate sponsorship** for the restoration of the Gran Salon of the Auberge de Provence, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

7 September: **Għar Dalam għall-Frisk** – An event featuring presentations in Maltese followed by a moonlight tour of the site and cave, at the Għar Dalam Cave and Museum.

8 September: **Open Day at Fort St Angelo** at a reduced price on the occasion of Victory Day, including a traditional commemoration of the Great Siege, mass, various activities, re-enactments and the possibility to view the exhibition 'De Valette's Armour and Fighting Sword Reunited'.

8 September: **Open Day at the National Museum of Archaeology** as a last chance to visit the de Valette's Dagger Exhibition.

13 September: **Santa Marija Convoy/George Cross Presentation** 75th Anniversary Commemoration – An event including guided tours of the World War II section of the National War Museum, archival documents and photographs on display for public viewing and an opportunity to explore the upper section of the Cavalier, at Fort St Elmo.

16 September: Complementary admission for **Ta' Bistra Catacombs** on the occasion of *Jum il-Mosta*.

21 & 22 September: **Autumn Equinox at Mnajdra Temples** – An event organised to experience the autumn equinox sunrise, followed by a tour of the Visitor Centre and refreshments, at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.

30 September: **Olive Pressing through the Ages** – An event organised to demonstrate the process of olive pressing in Malta, while visiting the Roman site of San Pawl Milqi (Burmarrad) and an olive pressing farm (Wardija).

13 October: **Dark Tales of Fort St Angelo** – In conjunction with Birgufest, HM organised two animated tours based on the tales of mystery and the supernatural, at Fort St Angelo.

14 October: **Fragments and their Contexts** – A half day seminar focusing on a very particular facet of cultural heritage which is inherent to any endeavour to interpret and present cultural heritage in a meaningful way, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

14 October: A **guided tour of Fort Delimara** exclusively organised for HM's members.

21 October: **Sails on the Horizon** – A curator's tour, focusing on the history of the site in relation to its strategic location especially as the guardian of the two main harbours in Malta, while also having the opportunity to view the Middle Sea Race, at Fort St Elmo.

28 October: **All Hallow's Eve** – Participants heard stories and learned about traditions associated with the dark and underground site, in a way never experienced before, at St Paul's Catacombs.

3 November: **L-Għid tal-Erwieħ** – A event highlighting popular traditions and beliefs in souls and the afterlife, which included a traditional supper and a possibility of a sleep-over at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6-10 November: **L-Għid tal-Erwieħ** educational programme at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 November: A **guided tour of Fort Delimara** organised to give an insight into years gone by when it was still operational under the British forces.

4-7, 15 December: **Christmas educational programme** at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 December: **HM members' annual festive event**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

13 December: **Open day at the Domus Romana** and the National Museum of Natural History, including the Malta Wildlife Photography Exhibition.

21 December: **Winter Solstice at Mnajdra Temples** – Event includes experiencing the Winter Solstice sunrise from Mnajdra Temples, a tour of the visitor centre and refreshments, at Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Archaeological Park.

EVENTS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

26 January: A **musico-literary soiree** to commemorate the centenary of St Paul organised by St Paul's Shipwreck Parish Church.

3 March: The **BPW Careers Day** organised for female students by the BPW Valletta (Malta) to celebrate Women's Day, at the Malta Fairs and Conventions Centre, Ta' Qali.

2 April: Guided tours at a reduced price at Ta' Hagarat on the occasion of **Festa Frawli** organised by the Mgarr Local Council.

23 April: **Frott il-Bidwi Mgarrri** – Tour of Skorba Temples on the occasion of the Żebbiegħ Agricultural Festival.

23 – 24 April: **Medieval Mdina** – Reduced admission fee for the Domvs Romana and the National Museum of Natural History.

18-19 May: **Maltese Library Days**. Hunting in Malta: passion, history, politics, organized by the General Translation Directorate of the European Commission in Brussels and Luxembourg.

15-16 June: **Digital Assembly Valletta** – official launch of 'Wonders of Malta' virtual tours and more, in collaboration with Google, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

6 July: HM stand at the **Annual Ambassadors Meeting** at Esplora, Kalkara.

7 July: Official inauguration of **Fjamma Li Ma Tmut Qatt** monument at Castille Square, Valletta, in collaboration with OPM and GHRC.

21-23 July: Participation in the **Malta International Food Festival**, Mdina.

4 October: Commemorative event on the occasion of the **75th anniversary of the award of the George Cross**, in the presence of Prince Charles, organized by the Office of the Prime Minister at St George's Square, Valletta.

7 October: In occasion of **Notte Bianca**, HM's museums in Valletta opened till late for free.

12-15 October: **Heritage and History Fair** organised by *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna*, at the Notre Dame Gate, Vittoriosa.

13, 14 and 15 October: In occasion of the **Birgufest** weekend, HM's sites at Birgu opened till late at a reduced price.

19-21 October: The International Conference on **Creative Organisations and Management: Issues and Policies in faith-based Tourism**, organised by the Malta Tourism Authority, the University of Malta, the Dublin institute of Technology (Ireland) and the Leeds Beckett University (United Kingdom).

8 – 12 November: **The Malta Book Festival 2017** – HM participated in this festival with a number of publications at HM's stand, organised by the National Book Council, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre.

EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

1 February: **High Five** – A mathematics challenge involving artefacts exhibited in the museum organised for children gifted in mathematics by the Mathematics and Science educational officers, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

12, 19 & 26 February: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

27 February: **Il-Qarçilla** – An original and unique carnival event organised in collaboration with the University of Malta's Department of Maltese, *I-Akkademja tal-Malti*, *Il-Kunsill tal-Ilsien Malti* and the Carnival Committee consisting of a short talk by Olvin Vella about the linguistic value of the ancient *qrieċel*, a performance followed by a reception, at the Egmont Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo.

5 March: **In Guardia** – event for HM Members, organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

5 March: Re-enactment '**Relive the Medieval Life of Mdina**' by Compagnia San Michele at the National Museum of Natural History.

5, 12, 19 & 26 March: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

8 March: **Press conference and visit** by the European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Youth and Sports, Tibor Navracsics, at MUŻA.

23 March: **European Social Fund projects** reception in the external grounds of Ġgantija Temples in collaboration with the Planning and Priorities Coordination Division.

2 April: **Guided tours of Tal-Mintna Catacombs** organised in collaboration with the Mqabba Local Council and *Din l-Art Helwa*.

2, 9, 23 & 30 April: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

10 April: A visit by the Hon Justyne Caruana, Parliamentary Secretary for the Rights of Persons with Disability and Active Ageing to meet with two **senior citizen groups from Sliema and Mosta Day Centres**, organised in conjunction with the Active Ageing Unit, at St Paul's Catacombs.

10 April: **Maths Trail** at the Gran Castello Historic House organised by the Gozo College Girls Secondary School with the participation of HM.

7, 14 & 21 May: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

9-16 May: **Careers week information sessions** at Ġgantija Temples and the Gran Castello Historic House, in collaboration with the Gozo Tourism Association.

13 till 14 May: **Artisans Market** organised in collaboration with Malta Artisans Market at the Enciente of Fort St Elmo.

18 May: **International Museum's Day** Seminar organised in collaboration with ICOM Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

19 May: **Official site visit and press event** by the Prime Minister organised in collaboration with Valletta 2018, at MUŻA, Auberge d'Italie.

8, 25 June: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at the Grand Master's Palace.

21 June: **Kenn Niesna** Film at the Egmont Hall organised by One Productions.

23 June: Special tour of the **natural assets at Haġar Qim** Park by the senior curator natural history to participants of the joint meeting of UNEP CMS Convention and Council of Europe Bern Convention networks on the protection of wild birds.

2, 9 July: **In Guardia** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, at the Grand Master's Palace.

10-11 July: **In-service course** for teachers at the Gozo Nature Museum.

15 August: HM **Cittadella sites and Visitor Centre**: On the occasion of the feast of Santa Maria these sites were opened at a combined discounted rate.

24-26 August: The 12th Edition of the **Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival** organised by *Inizjamed*, at Fort St Elmo.

5 September: **Press Conference** by Hon. Minister Dr Bonnici regarding the Open Day organised for the de Valette Dagger exhibition on 8 September and other events, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

12 September: Official signing of **Memorandum of Understanding** regarding culture and cultural heritage between the Chinese People's Government of Guizhou Province, the Arts Council Malta and HM, at the Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre.

13 September: Official unveiling ceremony of a **marble plaque commemorating the work of Royal Engineers Bomb Disposal Malta in World War II**, by the Hon. Prime Minister in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, the Armed Forces of Malta and the British High Commission, at the Upper Barrakka Gardens.

1 October: **Artisan Market** at Fort St Elmo organised in collaboration with the Malta Artisan Market, including reduced admission to the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo.

29 September: **The Science Time Machine** – Presentations on how scientists investigate cultural heritage by the Diagnostic Science Laboratories on the occasion of Science in the City, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

9-10 November: **In Service course** for music teachers at the Admiral's Hall, Fort St Angelo.

19 November: **In Guardia** – event for HM Members, organised in collaboration with MTA, at Fort St Elmo.

8, 9 & 10 December: **From the Holy Land to Malta** – In the footsteps of the Order of St John – a unique event organised in collaboration with HM, Compagnia San Michele Malta and *Prioratus Hospitalis Acconnensis* from Bologna, portraying the history of the Hospitaller Order from its roots in the Holy Land to its expulsion from Malta, at Fort St Angelo.

EVENTS HOSTED BY HM

15 January – 10 February: **Journalistic Hub** organised by the Office of the Prime Minister, on the occasion of the EU Prime Ministers Summit, at Fort St Elmo.

21 January: A **press conference** organised by the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government, at the Admiral's Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo.

3 February: **EU Prime Ministers' Summit**, at Fort St Angelo.

9 February: A **press conference** to launch the committee for the selection of sites to be included as World Heritage Sites or National Geoparks was organised by the Ministry for Sustainable Development, the Environment and Climate Change, at the National Museum of Natural History.

16 February: A **press conference** organised by Sport Malta, at the Admiral's Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo.

24 February: Meeting of the **Rarities Committee** at the National Museum of Natural History.

2 – 28 March: **Gvern li Jisma'** – Public consultation with Members of Cabinet organised by the Office of the Prime Minister, at Fort St Elmo.

4 March: A **press conference** to launch the Arts Festival organised by the Arts Council Malta, at Fort St Elmo.

11 – 12 March: **Malta Artisan Markets** – Organised in collaboration with The Definitive(ly) Good Guide Co, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 March: **Europa Nostra annual general meeting** followed by a reception, at the Admiral's Conference Hall, Fort St Angelo.

27 – 30 March: **International Physics Conference** organised by the Department of Physics - University of Malta, at the Conference Hall of Fort St Elmo.

29 March: A **Dialogue on the future of Europe** with the President of the European Commission Jean Claude Juncker, Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and Commissioner Karmenu Vella organised by the European Commission Representation in Malta, MEUSAC and the Strickland Foundation, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

1 – 12 April: Lectures and activities organised by **European Graduate School** Swiss College at Fort St Elmo.

4 April: Progress Meeting organised by the **Malta Maritime Forum**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

9 April: *IN-NAŻRI* – A **passion play** organized by *Carpe Diem* Productions in collaboration with the Mdina Local Council in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, at the National Museum of Natural History.

22 April: **Science in the Citadel** – A stimulating experience for visitors of all ages who engaged in science, research, creativity and innovation, organised by various NGOs and institutions, at the Citadel museums.

23 April: A **falconry activity** organised by *Fridericus Rex* Malta, at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra park.

29 April: **Press conference** organised by Parliamentary Secretary for Research, Innovation, Youth and Sports, at the Conference Hall of Fort St Elmo.

6 May: **GħaNasori: Unity in Diversity** – A concert and brief presentations bringing together Maltese *għana* and the Japanese imperial court dance known as Nasori organised by Arts Council Malta, V18 and the EU Japan Fest, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

10 May: **UNESCO art camp** 2017 workshop at Ġgantija Temples.

13 May: **Emergency, Fire and Rescue Unit** (EFRU) conference at Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.

13 – 14 May: **Elmo Weekender** – A spring market organised by Malta Artisan Markets, at Fort St Elmo.

15 - 21 May: **World Music Festival**, organised by Arts Council Malta at Piazza D'Armi, Fort St Elmo.

19 – 20 May: **Malta World Music Festival** (#MWMF) celebrating the diversity of Mediterranean and world music, bringing together a rich programme of Maltese music bands and international world music acts, at Piazza D'Armi, Fort St Elmo.

22 – 28 May: **Malta Fashion Week** and Awards, at Fort St Elmo.

11 June: **NESQUIK educational and family event**, at Fort St Elmo.

14 June: **In Service Course**, held by the Ministry for Health, at the Conference Hall of Fort St Elmo.

21 June – Screening of film ***Kenn Niesna*** on Malta’s dive sites, at the Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.

27 June - 17 July: **Malta Arts Festival** organised by Arts Council Malta at Piazza D’Armi and Cavalier Piazza, Fort St Elmo.

7, 10 July: **In Service Course**, held by the Ministry for Health, at the Conference Hall of Fort St Elmo.

9 July: **Arts Council Malta Trophies Presentation**, at Fort St Elmo.

22 July: **Philanthropic Event** organised by The Marigold Foundation, at Fort St Elmo.

1 September: **Press conference** by Hon. Minister Dr Bonnici **on Wiki Loves Monuments photography competition**, in collaboration with Wikipedia Commons and *Spazju Kreattiv*, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

20 September: **Official reception on the occasion of the 53rd anniversary of Independence** organised by the Office of the Prime Minister, at Bighi.

21 September: Official **Independence concert** organised by Arts Council Malta at the Prince Alfred Courtyard of the Grand Master’s Palace.

27 September: Press launch of the official **Valletta 2018 Cultural Programme**, Gran Salon, National Museum of Archaeology.

6 October: **Mount Carmel Hospital President’s Award** at the Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.

14 November: **Mount Carmel Hospital President’s Award** at the Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.

24-26 November: Seventh international meeting of the **Historical Fencing Associations**, organized by the Malta Historical Fencing Association, at Fort St Angelo.

APPENDIX 2

PURCHASE OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS

Teresa Sciberras (b. 1979)

Circumscribed (x 3 paintings)

Blind Spot (x 3 paintings)

What is a Box (x 2 paintings)

Sketch for Poi Piovve Dentro (drawing)

Roxman (Roxanne) Gatt (b. 1989)

Untitled (painting)

Girl Series (x 3 fine art photography)

Biennale Video (video installation)

Pia Borg (b. 1977)

Silica (video installation)

Lawrence Buttigieg (b. 1963)

Tabernacle for Kelly (installation piece – paintings on canvas, wood, photography and mixed media)

Ruth Bianco (b. 1954)

Wall of Prayer (installation – 100 drawings)

Documents on the Sea (painting)

Ritty Tacsum (b. 1990)

Plastic Arts Series x 5 (digital and fine art photography)

APPENDIX 3

ACQUISITION OF NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS

List of bird carcasses received from Customs on 10 October

Wood Pigeon x 7

Unidentified bird skin x 1

List of bird carcasses received from BirdLife Malta on 8 March

08/11/2016 – Common Chiffchaff - Buskett

30/10/2016 – Sardinian Warbler - Naxxar

02/12/2016 – Starling - Kirkop

02/12/2016 – Song Thrush - Nadur (Gozo)

05/12/2016 – Starling - Mosta

07/12/2016 – Redstart - Siggiewi

11/12/2016 – Starling - Rdum tal-Madonna

02/12/2016 - Spanish Sparrow – Ta' Xbiex

10/12/2016 - Blackcap – Madliena

List of bird carcasses received from BirdLife Malta on 27 July

20/03/2017 - Lesser Kestrel – Airport

20/03/2017 - Scops Owl – Mosta

16/04/2017 - Eurasian Blackcap – Balzan

01/05/2017 - Common Quail – Sliema

01/06/2017 - Collared Dove – Mellieha

05/07/2017 - Collared Dove – Santa Lucija

06/07/2017 - Blue Rock Thrush – Mgarr

Other donations

- A small wooden box formerly used by Guido Lanfranco to house the first specimen of the 'Ramla' Sand Cricket *Brachytrypes megacephalus* taken from Ramla Bay Gozo in 1955, by Professor Louis Cassar
- Several specimens of local shells, including species previously not represented in the museum collections, by the four volunteers working on the mollusc collection
- A large olive tree trunk, by Ms Beatrice Asciak of Paradise Bay Hotel
- Mr Constantine Mifsud of Rabat (museum volunteer) donated the following collections: Cirripedia – 43 data entries, Sipunculids – 15 data entries, Echinodermata (177 entries from the following families: Crinoidea, Holothuridae, Asteroidea and Echinoidea), and a small conchological collection of specimens from Senegal including paratypes.

APPENDIX 4

ACQUISITION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE OBJECTS

DONATIONS

Item	Title	Donor	Collection	Quantity
Clock	Alarm clock belonging to Nicola Scicluna 1914-1985	Kenneth Gambin	Ethnography	1
Miscellaneous	Military uniforms, photo albums of army life, military books, maps, set of military medals with miniature set and ribbons	Philip Tonna	Fort St Elmo	5
Photograph	Photo of A. Brimmer US Marine, Photo of A. Brimmer US Airforce, 3 Sets of Stripes, Badge with name, Badge embroidered with Surname, Small US flat and stick, Marine Corps sticker	Mary Falzon	Fort St Elmo	8
Publication	<i>L-ewwel ghajnuna ghal min ikorri fil-gwerra; Litanija tal-gwerra</i>	Rita Caruana	Fort St Elmo	2
Printed matter	Various pictures and funeral programme	S. Pullmann	Fort St Elmo	10
Lantern	Metal and glass lantern with metal badge affixed	Dept. of Projects, W. B., Gozo	Gozo Ethn.	1
Map	Route Bus Map	Brian Coniam	Ethnography	1
Photograph	Photos belonging to Herbert Campain	Louise Taylor	Fort St Elmo	12
Photograph	11 photos war 1940 - 1944 Fleetwood Lancashire UK	Jamie Newton	Fort St Elmo	11
Bas relief	Polychrome plaster bas relief by Gianni Vella	Joseph Said	Fine Arts	1
Tools	20 th century Beethoven dynamo condenser exploder with textile handle and leather covered wooden box	Dept. of Projects, W. B., Gozo	Gozo Ethn.	1
Traffic signs	8 traffic signs, lanterns Chalwyn	Dept. of Projects, W. B., Gozo	Gozo Ethn.	8
Rolling pin	Wooden Rolling Pin	Alda Bugeja	Ethnography	1
Uniform	Set of CPO Uniform inc. Jacket, trousers and cap	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1

Photograph	Framed photo of Rear Admiral Cecil	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Framed interpretation of oubliette used at Fort St Angelo	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1
Printed matter	Naval pay and identity book of CPO German	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1
Letter	Letter from Rear Admiral Cecil to CPO German	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1
Letter	Letter by HMS St Angelo Captain Duffet to CPO German	J. German	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Set of 11 original photos by CPO Joseph German	J. German	Fort St Angelo	11
Textiles	Cotton, canvas and lace soft furnishings (15) and a letter in envelope 1920	V. Buhagiar	Ethnography	15
Specimen	Sea horse collected from Qbajjar 1980	G. Debono	Natural History	1
Specimen	Shrimp (Xkala) collected off Xwejni tower 1980	G. Debono	Natural History	1
Specimen	Coral collected from Wied I-Ghasri 1980	G. Debono	Natural History	1
Specimen	Triton Shell (Bronja) collected off Xwejni tower 1980	G. Debono	Natural History	1
Model	Sienja model mounted on a four-legged base. Post world war II	Norman Bonello	Gozo Ethn.	1
Dress	Evening Dress 1990	Miriam Mangion	Ethnography	1
Helmet	British Paratrooper Helmet	Edgar Ciancio	Fort St Elmo	1
Medals	Set of Medals	Edgar Ciancio	Fort St Elmo	1
Weapon	Bayonette	Edgar Ciancio	Fort St Elmo	1
Camp bed	Military camp bed	Edgar Ciancio	Fort St Elmo	1
Cigarette case	Cigarette case HMS Galatier	Robert Taylor	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	Photo - HMS Warspite	Robert Taylor	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	HMS RN Cruiser	Robert Taylor	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	Photo album 1920s	Robert Taylor	Fort St Elmo	1

Publication	Book - Our Penelope	Robert Taylor	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	Set of 2 original photos of CPOs at HMS St Angelo 1978	Christopher Jenkins	Fort St Angelo	2
Tools	AVO meter	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	1
Headphone	Head gear	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	1
Loudspeaker	Main energized speaker	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	1
Instrument	2 photo cells, copper oxide full wave rectifier	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	2
Projector film	2 films 16mm	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	2
Projector film	2 reels empty 16 mm	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	2
Projector film	1 empty reel 8 mm	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	1
Tiles	Old wall tiles with patterns	John Bianco	Fort St Angelo	2
Sculpture	Heads of horses	Alexander Genuis	Fine Arts	1
Uniform	Nr.1 RMA Dress Captain Black Red Stipes and Pips	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Nr. 1 RMA Dress Major Khaki and Shirt and tie and crown	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Various without rank nr. 3 dress white and khaki summer and winter	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	White uniform	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Khaki drill	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Cap	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Tassles	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Red blue belt	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Uniform	Buttons	Godwin D'Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	6
Uniform	Cap black and white 22007 with embroidered badge on the front	Martin Aquilina	CMU	1

Letter	Discharge letter of Capt. Egerton Wilson from Capt. HMS St Angelo	Juliet Cowper	Fort St Angelo	1
Tools	Miscellaneous tools related to coffin making	Mr Pavia	Ethnography	100+
Flag	Maltese flag	Rinaldo Romani	Ethnography	1
Artwork	Horsetail embroidery framed by Shui Ethnic Minority	People's Government of Guizhou, China	CMU	1
Photograph	12 x monochrome mounted enlargements forming a panel, depicting architectural works in Malta	Carmel H. Psaila	Ethnography	12
Photograph	Photographs	Mrs L. Blackburn	Fort St Elmo	12
Postcard	Postcards	Mrs. L. Blackburn	Fort St Elmo	2
Coaster	Coaster of Malta EU presidency 2017 featuring Fort St Angelo	Kenneth Gambin	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Fort St Angelo 1890	Kenneth Gambin	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Sketch of Fort St Angelo and Senglea point	Kenneth Gambin	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Scrapbook containing photos of Mr Louis Cassar	family of Louis Cassar	Fort St Elmo	1
Stamps	Ring file containing folders filled with first day covers/souvenir envelopes with aviation theme (mostly by RAF)	Len Moscrop	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	The Air Battle of Malta	P. Strickson	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Parade Magazine July 1942 - December 1943	n/a	Fort St Elmo	18
Publication	Eagle and Dolphin Magazine	Admiral Sir Nigel Cecil	Fort St Elmo	12
Publication	Cry Havoc - The Arms Race and the Second World War 1931-1941	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	The War Diaries of Weary Dunlop Java and the Burma-Thailand Railway 1942-1945	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	The Cooler King - The True Story of William Ash: Spitfire Pilot, POW and WWII's Greatest Escaper	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Napoleon's Sea Sailors - Rene Chartbrand	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1

Publication	World War II German Battle Insignia	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Tanks of Hitler's Eastern Allies - 1941-1945	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Ir-Refugjati Maltin f'Ghawdex fi Zmien il-Gwerra</i>	Charles Bezzina	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Yells, Bells and Smells - Christopher Jary	Author	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Hal Safi - Paul Callus	Author	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	photograph of RAF engineer Walter Neal in 1939/1940	Malcolm Duffield	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Valletta - Porto Reale and its Environs	Maria Micallef	Fort St Elmo	1
Photograph	10 copies of photos showing various ships of the Royal Navy and HC Simms as well as one photo of the donor	Blake Simms	Fort St Elmo	10
Postcard	23 naval postcards; 11 photos	Carmelo (Lino) Briffa	Fort St Elmo	23
Publication	Destroyer Actions - Harry Plevy	Charles Debono	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Baileys of Malta booklet	Vince Ellul	Maritime	1
Printed matter	11 Shipping Insurance Certificates from the 1950s.	n/a	Maritime	11
Photograph	Photo of HMS Amazon anchored in the Grand Harbour	Anna and Adrian Borg Cardona	Maritime	1
Photograph	Photo of fishermen in black and white	Anna and Adrian Borg Cardona	Maritime	1
Badge	Badge of R.N.A. – Malta GC Branch	Anna and Adrian Borg Cardona	Maritime	1
Photograph	Photo of war damaged Malta Dockyard mounted on cardboard	n/a	Maritime	1
Photograph	Negatives of the recovery of swivel guns from Ramla tat-Torri	n/a	Maritime	11
Publication	<i>Spiagge Venete</i> promotion booklet	n/a	Maritime	1
Photograph	Dr Pisani (donor of coins and Knights ship models, etc) photo	n/a	Maritime	1
Printed matter	cutting from <i>Times of Malta</i> proposing Free Port in 1965	n/a	Maritime	1
Photograph	Faint photo showing what might be coat of arms of Admiral of the Order	n/a	Maritime	1

Printed matter	Copy of drawing showing fortifications	n/a	Maritime	1
Printed matter	Print copy of painting showing English flag being hoisted for first time by Maltese blockaders in 1799	n/a	Maritime	1
Printed matter	Picture of cover of ledger/book with medal of the <i>Camera del Commercio</i>	n/a	Maritime	1
Publication	Biographical Memoirs of Lord Viscount Nelson - John Chanock (1806)	Stephanie Jones	Maritime	1
Photograph	7 photos showing two pictures of HMS Revenge; HMS Hood; HMS Waterhen; HMS Royal Oak and hospital ship Maine. One of the photos shows an unidentified vessel	Paul Pulis	Maritime	7
Photograph	Glass plate negatives	Nicholas Bianchi	Maritime	7
Printed matter	Newspaper cutting about survivor of HMS Barham	Coniam Brian	Maritime	1
Printed matter	Newspaper cutting about William Richard Major, who had been a POW in Japan	Coniam Brian	Maritime	1
Printed matter	Photocopy of photo of William Richard Major	Coniam Brian	Maritime	1
Photograph	Commemoration photo of HMS Barham	Coniam Brian	Maritime	1
Photograph	6 photographs showing Dockyard scenes	n/a	Maritime	6
Publication	The Exploration Diaries of H.M. Stanley	John A. Mizzi	Maritime	1
Publication	The Observing Eye - Thomas Freller	John Demanuele	Maritime	1
Publication	Anglo American Cataloguing Rules (second edition and revisions)	Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez	Maritime	1
Fragment	Sherd from a ceramic container retrieved from underwater 19.5 cm	Saviour Tabone	Gozo Ethn.	1
Fragment	Sherd from a ceramic container retrieved from underwater 24.5 cm	Saviour Tabone	Gozo Ethn.	1
Miscellaneous items	Several items including clothing, furniture, tools and containers	Sr D. Saliba	Maritime	83
Memorial cards	Santi tal-mejtin	Alfred Calleja	Ethnography	25,000 +

Pram + household items	Miscellaneous bedroom items	C. Schembri	Ethnography	5
Bedsread	20th century cotton bedsread	Dr J. Cassar	Ethnography	1
Publication	<i>The Breeding Birds of Malta</i>	John J. Borg	Natural History	1
Publication	<i>Il-Merill 33</i> (December 2017)	John J. Borg	Natural History	1
Publication	<i>L-Ghasfur u l-Ambjent Naturali /In-Natura</i>	Joe Sultana	Natural History	Set
Publications	Papers published during 2017	Constantine Mifsud	Natural History	Various
Ceramic fragments	Fragment of ceramic container and small two-handed ceramic container (Classical period) retrieved from underwater off Gozo	Anthony Cordina	Gozo	2
Bakery items	Items from dismantled bakery known as Ta' Gerit in Victoria	Saviour Tabone	Gozo Ethnography	
Miniature altar	Late 19th century children's miniature stone altar	Dr J. Bonello	Ethnography	1
Vintage computer	1958 vintage mechanical/electric computer/sorter	A. Cilia	Ethnography	1
Dentist's chair	Dentist's chair formerly used by Mr J. Diacono	M. Portelli	Ethnography	1
Tram rails	Sections of tram rails	D. Darmanin	Ethnography	4
Miscellaneous	Military uniforms, photo albums of army life, military books, maps, set of military medals with miniature set and ribbons	Philip Tonna	Fort St Elmo	31
Weapon	British Army Knife	William Anastasi	Fort St Elmo	1
Tools	Kalafrana Pillar Drill	Romeo Attard	Fort St Elmo	1
Aircraft fragments	Various fragments from WWII aircraft	Anthony Rogers	Fort St Elmo	61
Publications	Two soldiers Bibles	A. Hartley	Fort St Elmo	2
Weapon	40mm cartridge, shell and stand	Alan Williams	Fort St Elmo	1
Publications	Miscellaneous publications dated 1943	E.L.D. Oldfield	Fort St Elmo	10
Publication	Souvenir postcards	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	12

Publication	Prayer book 1916	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Soldiers Guide to Sicily	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Ration Book	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Identity card belonging to A. van Lier	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	First Aid books	Mario Falzon	Fort St Elmo	3
Publication	Book of Poems by L. Psaila Mc Ewen	Fr A. Borg OFM	Fort St Elmo	1

PURCHASES

Item	Title	Cost €	Seller	Collection	Qty
Photo albums	Royal Naval hospital Bighi photo album and memorabilia, and Malta Convoy albums	240	Belgravia Auctions	NWM/ Maritime	35
Postcard	Postcard showing Fort St Angelo	10.44	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Letter	Envelope from HMS Victory to HMS Egmont 1910	39.41	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photo	Original photo of FSA 1943	6.20	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of Fort St Angelo as HMS Egmont 1910	14.83	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Artwork	View of FSA in 23 carat gold leaf, framed	22.10	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Letter	Discharge letter of Lt. Comm. R. W. Kego serving at HMS St Angelo 1953	29.54	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Letter	HMS St Angelo envelope and historical note sent by Commanding Officer in 1967	18.27	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Utensils	Zingla x2, Sieh, Kejla x2, Borma x2, Musbieh, Gliegel x2, Pagna, Kenur, Mejjilla x2	1,100	Mr. Mario Azzopardi	Gozo Ethnography	11

Publication	<i>The Phoenicio-Graeco-Roman Temple and the Origin and development of FSA 1948</i>	20	Dr William Zammit	Fort St Angelo	1
Painting	Painting of Fort St Angelo	71.65	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Publication	1929 book <i>La Bianca Croce</i> featuring FSA on cover	25.95	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Utensils	20 th century dough container and several baking trays 1950s from traditional bakery in Qormi	300	Mr Gilbert Galea	Gozo Ethnography	6
Textiles	Several soft furnishings	250	Ms Alda Bugeja	Gozo Ethnography	18
Photograph	1910s original photo of HMS Egmont	10.26	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	1900s postcard of FSA	10.20	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Painting	Daniel interpreting Nebuchadnezzar's dreams – Mattia Preti	320,000	Sotheby's New York	Gozo Museum	1
Tool	Bench stand-drill used for carriage wheel	50	Grace Caruana	Ethnography	1
Utensils	Lot loaf moulds, Standing Scales (3), Suspended Scales (3)	800	Anthony Camilleri	Gozo Ethnography	6
Postcard	1920 Postcard of FSA	8.25	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	1910 Photo of FSA 1935	25.65	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	1840 depiction of FSA	17.20	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard with Bird's eye view of Grand Harbour inc. FSA 1950	3.49	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of FSA from Upper Barracca 1903	10.19	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of no. 2 Battery of FSA 1903	10.18	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Painting	Painting water colour depicting Fish Market	140	Jan de Ruijter	Ethnography	1
Postage stamps	Set of stamps featuring FSA with HMS Alexander and HMS London	14.64	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	16
Photograph	Copy Photo of HMS Keppel below FSA 1928	4.75	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Talent below FSA 1951	4.57	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1

Photograph	Copy photo of Italian Liner Aurelia	4.45	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Warspite	4.45	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy of Photo of HMS Legion	4.45	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Alamein	6.59	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Warrior	7.77	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of RFA tanker Appleleaf	6.59	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Woolwich	16.96	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Truncheon	6.59	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Mary Rose	6.82	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Cheviot	6.59	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Mauritius	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Chivalrous	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Charity	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Yarmouth	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Leviatan	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Kenya	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Gloucester	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Ajax	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Ark Royal	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Pegasus	5.09	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Liverpool	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Euryalus	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Berwick	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Caprice	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Cheviot	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1

Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Froblisher	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Redoubt	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Unicorn	0.00	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Abourik	68.79	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Emerald	33.48	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Upper Barrakka	6.20	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Painting	Painting of RAF spitfires	30.59	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard showing painting of HMS Blake	5.93	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo HMS Lock Killisport	12.22	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Poster	Original advert by Achille Adorno & C To Paymaster of HMS Egmont	28.51	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Original photo of HMS Phoebe	5.86	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Canopus	2.24	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Queen	2.24	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Aboukir	2.24	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Malaya	2.24	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy photo of HMS Warspite	2.24	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of Grand Harbour	1.38	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of AF Patrol boat	2.13	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard sketch of Grand Harbour	3.45	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard sketch of Grand Harbour	3	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Albumen photo of FSA from Valletta, 1870s	53.86	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of Grand Harbour	3.40	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Photograph	Copy of photo of USS Richard E Kraus below FSA	27.54	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of Grand Harbour	1.95	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Her Majesty Dockyard Christmas card with FSA	10.68	Ebay.com	Fort St Angelo	1
Postcard	Postcard of Grand Harbour	5.20	Delcampe.net	Fort St Angelo	1
Publication	<i>Tfuliti f' Birkirkara fi Zmien il-Gwerra</i>	10	Agenda	Fort St Elmo	1

Publication	Spitfire V vs C.202 Folgore	18.20	Agenda	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	Mussolini's Navy	60.20	Agenda	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>The Italian Folgore Parachute Division</i> - Paolo Morisi	34	direct from owner	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	19 issues of <i>Army Illustrated Magazine</i> 1943-1945	25	Ms Mary Higgins	Fort St Elmo	19
Publication	<i>A Malta Teenager at War</i> - M. Mifsud Bonnici	20.24	BDL	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Mill-Glorious sal-Vitorja</i> - Ronald Bugeja	9.71	BDL	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Malta Strikes Back</i> - Ken Delve		blackwells.co.uk	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Being Silent they Speak</i> - David JB Smith	4	direct from owner	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>The Watery Grave</i> - Richard Osborne	5	direct from owner	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Valetta Lost City - Vol I</i> - Giovanni Bonello	80	BDL	Fort St Elmo	1
Publication	<i>Valetta Lost City - Vol II</i> - Giovanni Bonello	80	BDL	Fort St Elmo	1
Photo album	Photo Album showing scenes of Malta in 1938	-	Julia Diaz Manzuelas	Maritime	1
Publication	<i>Disappearing Malta - Crafts, Trades & Traditions</i>	105	BDL	Maritime	1
Tools	Parts of water mill (sienja) and beast driven mill	-	Russell Brincat	Gozo Ethnography	
Moulds	Copper jelly and copper cake moulds	42	Gigi's Antiques	Ethnography	2
Furniture	19th century wooden spice cabinet	138.7	D. Vivant ebay	Ethnography	1
Publication	<i>Chronologie Septenaire De L'Histoire</i> , 1606	400	Dr S. Peters, Germany	Ethnography	1
Publication	<i>Les Propheties de M. Nostradamus</i> , 1610	340	Lib. Antiquaria, Italy	Ethnography	1