



**ANNUAL REPORT  
2022**











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# Table of Contents

|  |                                 |   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 5<br>Foreword                          | 6<br>Capital<br>Works           | 20<br>Conservation                          |
| 38<br>Collections<br>and Research      | 78<br>Exhibitions and<br>Events | 88<br>Education,<br>Publishing and Outreach |
| 96<br>Other<br>Corporate               | 128<br>Visitor<br>Statistics    | 150<br>Appendix I<br>Events Calendar        |
| 174<br>Appendices II-V<br>Acquisitions | 214<br>Audited<br>Accounts      |   |



## Foreword

The year 2022 has been a positive one with tangible successes for Heritage Malta. A year that in spite of starting off on the wrong foot, due to the Covid-19 restrictions still in force, it saw a tremendous turn for the better once restrictions were lifted and life returned to some semblance of normality.

The lack of face-to-face public interaction during those long Covid months were made up for with a remarkable amount of work behind the scenes. February saw the signing of a new collective agreement for Heritage Malta employees, balancing their needs with the Agency's sustainability and bringing about improvement and innovation in all aspects. Besides improved working conditions and increased wages, the new agreement is committed towards the continuous professional development of employees, through internal training and coaching by outside sources. Heritage Malta's employees are entrusted with the noble mission of protecting our country's patrimony and it is crucial to provide them with benefits that ensure their contentment at the workplace.

In tandem with the collective agreement, an internal restructuring exercise was conducted during the year under review. The need for this new structure arose due to the Agency's growth, not only in terms of workforce size, but also with the increase in the number of sites and collections managed by Heritage Malta, all hinged to the expectations of visitors and the public. There have also been considerable changes in the environment within which we operate – due to the pandemic and the competitive forces all around – giving rise to the need for the Agency to consolidate its operations and restructure itself. Heritage Malta's restructuring exercise included, inter alia, the creation of new positions within its hierarchy, the establishment of new departments and the merging of others, as well as the implementation of the new concept of 'experience development'.

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant milestones for Heritage Malta in 2022 was the launch of its new brand identity, heralding the Agency's entry into a new era with the slogan 'Part of Us'. Far from simply a new look, our rebranding exercise marked the beginning of a new chapter in Heritage Malta's story, where the Agency ventures into new areas while remaining loyal to its roots and mission. The idea is to shift away from the static showcase museum and move towards dynamic, people-focused museology; ensure that all design and interpretation are based on the needs, wants and expectations of all audiences, while museums and sites come alive with the creation and exchange of information and ideas. Strengthening what has been achieved so far thanks to the massive investment in technology is a must, including the digitisation of and the management system for the National Collection, software for the management of human resources and other internal processes, and the top notch equipment for the Diagnostic Science Laboratories.

Since 2022 is still deemed a pandemic year, as normal operations only resumed in May, the Agency missed out on one of the busiest visitor periods. Despite this, the overall performance during the year in question has been very encouraging, with positive results across the board that augur well for 2023 and beyond, not just in terms of visitors and revenue, but also as far as employee performance goes. Indeed, 2022 was brimming with projects and initiatives, a full events' calendar and a very positive public response as attested by the statistics published in this annual report. The public's engagement, both physically and online, was and still is utterly heartening.

Sustained by last year's promising result, thanks to the product and the experience offered, as well as the encouraging tourism forecasts, we all look optimistically forward to another fruitful year.



**Noel Zammit**

Chief Executive Officer



CAPITAL  
WORKS

## Cottonera Region

The implementation of the Cottonera Strategy, prepared by the Agency subsequent to the issuance of the vision for the area by the central government, is an ongoing process, with various actions currently underway and/or planned.

The restoration works on the back façade of the **Inquisitor's Palace** along Pope Alexander VII Street have now been completed except for the reconstruction of the open 17th-century balcony, to be tackled in 2023. Other restoration works were carried in the interior of the palace, including refurbishment works to the toilet facilities at second floor level on the Pannellini Quarters. This was a minor but significant upgrade in the museum facilities, particularly since these are in proximity of the Cardinals' Hall, where most of the museum's educational and commercial events take place. Other works included removing old cement pointing and carrying out the necessary maintenance works on the flagstones at the foot of the main staircase. Conservation works spilled into the passageway leading to the kitchen area and the *Castellania* courtyard with cleaning, repointing and the necessary plastic repair of some of the walls after the removal of the temporary display exhibition boards. Both are expected to continue next year.

Planning and design proposals are being prepared in order to improve the accessibility within the edifice, while a tender for the restoration of the interiors of the Palace is also currently being drafted. Steps forward were registered to improve the museum experience with a total reinstatement of the inquisitor's apartments, that would include improved events and visitor facilities and physical accessibility. Following the survey carried out in 2020 two options are being considered for an accessibility project including a lift. Further to this, a holistic plan for the general experience upgrade of the Inquisitor's Palace was presented through a project entitled '*Il Trattarsi Splendidamente* - a 15-point proposal for the Inquisitor's Palace to live up to its name'. The project of manufacturing a replica of the original furniture in the *Cancelleria* also continued. The works consisted of the manufacture of two of the larger wall cabinets which shall be installed on-site once the decorative scheme is completed.

Resources were also dedicated towards the upkeep of the **Birgu Armoury**, namely general cleans in view of hosting two events. Works also included implementing safety measures, tightening, and locking up apertures and replacing glass panes. It is evident that the building needs a thorough survey to stop further damages caused by water ingress and improve upon safety.

On the other hand, the project at the **Malta Maritime Museum**, saw the completion of the civil and restoration works part-funded through the EEA mechanism. The second phase of the project, which involves the implementation of a new masterplan and visitor experience, is now underway. The integrated design team engaged for this project is now completing the masterplan, in preparation for tenders to be issued in 2023. In the meantime, exploratory works are currently being planned to establish the work methodology to expose the original ditch running along the rear side of the building, in St Lawrence Street, which was backfilled in the 1950s. Subsequently the reconstruction of the arcaded terrace can proceed. Preparatory works are also underway to commence with the restoration of the internal fabric of the ground floor spaces and clock tower, that do not form part of the EEA project. The ongoing works on the restoration of all external apertures also registered further progress.

At **Fort St Angelo** regular maintenance as per established maintenance schedules proceeded throughout the year, which included cleaning of archaeological pits and gutters, maintenance of roofs, keeping vegetation under control, scheduled maintenance of airconditioners, lifts, generator, fire fighting equipment and pest control system. Other works included repointing the external walls of Admiral's Hall, Administration Block, Officers' Lounge, Egmont Hall and Blondel Block, installation of a new lighting system and rain water gutter in the crypt, re-installation of uplighters at Parade Ground Kalkara side, replacement of waypoints lights around fort, and maintenance of the Egmont Hall stage. Various repainting works were concluded, including the Sick Bay vent and gate, the 1780s barrack diorama, the gunpowder magazine diorama and the St Angelo Battery sign near Egmont Hall, and water drains around Admiral's Hall, Administration, Blondel Residence and Officers' Lounge. Ferramolino's cavalier guns were also micro-blasted. Parts of the external architectural lighting circuits and fittings continued to be replaced due to their deterioration in such a severe exposed environment.

### Valletta Region

The implementation of several initiatives forming part of the 2019 Valletta Vision that the Agency prepared for all its sites in Valletta are currently underway. Furthermore, the work of the manufacture and upkeep regional team continued with the regular maintenance of all sites and museums in the area, as well as the works required in the offices of the Ministry for Cultural Heritage, Arts and Local Government (MHAL).

At the **National Museum of Archaeology**, the drafting of a design brief for an international design competition for the entire museums and the architectural surveying of the entire complex, including annexed areas such as 138, 139 Melita Street and the properties on Cart Street, is complete. However, the publication of this call is pending the confirmation of a budget allocation for this project.

Works concerning **Underground Valletta** continued. These included the installation of all required infrastructure for the setting up of the audio-visual immersive visitor experience for 'WWII Experience: Shelter – Famine – Resistance'. The next phase of the project is to develop this experience further into a permanent installation.

A tender to engage an integrated design team for the complex at **Biagio steps** (presently the Fortress Interpretation Centre) to be transformed into an interpretation centre for Valletta has been drafted. However, this is not yet published until funds are allocated to this project.

The design process for the visitor experience at the **Main Guard** continued with the selected integrated design team. Furthermore, the tender for the restoration of the building fabric was also finalised and is due for publication in early 2023.

Works at the **Grand Master's Palace**, the Agency's largest project ever undertaken, with an investment of circa €30M, €10M of which are co-financed via the ERDF funding mechanism, continued with a steady pace. These include:

1. the restoration of the external masonry fabric and structural repairs/waterproofing of the roofs,
2. the installation of the required services within the various areas,

3. the restoration of the interiors of the State Rooms, focusing on the ornate timber soffits, fresco and decorated wall surfaces and the marble flooring.

Works are now progressing according to the established programme of works, with a number of State Rooms now nearing handing-over stage. These include spaces earmarked to accommodate the Offices of the President, at second and third floor levels, partly overlying the main grand staircase. Restoration works in the Piano Nobile Corridor, *Uccelliera* and Armoury were completed. In the meantime, the restoration works of the decorated timber soffits, wall paintings/frescos and flooring (marble, flagstones, timber) in all State Rooms also got underway, with works in the Ambassadors Chamber (Red Room) and Pages Room (Green Room) practically completed, and a number of other rooms nearing completion. Of particular note is the specialised operation undertaken by Heritage Malta's (HM) masonry restoration team in reinstating the recovered flagstone flooring in the Paladini Chapel. All such operations are supported by thorough extensive curatorial research and on-site documentation.

The works in most spaces have now moved into the final phase, with the installation of the active equipment and environmental control systems. This was followed by the installation of the fit-out future and showcases, manufacture of mounts, and the actual fit-out and placing of the thousands of artefacts in the Armoury area which are due for completion in early 2023. In the meantime, the interpretative elements, consisting of graphic panels and audio-visual installations are currently being finalized. The restoration of the timber apertures in all areas have also continued at a steady pace. During the year works were impacted to prepare the site for the general election (March), the visit of Pope Francis (April), the state visit by the President of Croatia (July) and the Arraiolos Heads of State meeting (October), apart from the celebration related to Republic Day (December).

The continuous maintenance/restoration and upgrading of the structures at **Fort St Elmo** continued. Works included re-pointing of several structures, cleaning and maintenance of roofs, and vegetation control. Scheduled maintenance was conducted on lifts, water pumps and air-conditioning units. Other works comprised maintenance of the Cavalier lighthouse base, of Abercrombie casemates' façade and roof, parade ground verandahs and arches, repointing of Abercrombie QF left battery stone bases, the installation of a locker for tourist bags, maintenance of No.1 and No.2 museum blocks' apertures, and repainting of Abercrombie QF left and centre Battery railing. Works also continued in the upper level of the Cavalier, including the manufacture of the furniture for the former 'Firing Command' station.

Snagging and maintenance works are ongoing in **MUŻA**. Furthermore, the restoration of the fabric of the former Jobs Plus offices, located under the Camerone area, with access from Zachary Street and linked via a staircase to the ground floor level, are now complete and design of the services and finished for the area has commenced. In the meantime, works are also underway for the upgrade of areas of the permanent display and ancillary areas. Works were also carried out in the conservation 'drying area' which included electrical installations, HVAC related works and carpentry.

The working committee set up for the management of works at **Villa Guardamangia** proceeded with its preparatory work for an ERDF proposal for the restoration and rehabilitation of the site, and the implementation of an engaging visitor experience. A Cost Benefit Analysis on the project was carried

out. A GPR survey for the entire site was completed and underground features identified. A team of conservators have completed the investigative works on the uncovered painted wall decorations on the internal walls. Part of the façade was structurally consolidated through an inhouse emergency intervention. Another intervention carried out this year involved the removal and proper disposal of all asbestos material found in the building – a laborious operation. In the meantime, the tender drafting for the restoration of the villa is at an advanced stage.

Good progress was registered at **Villa Frere gardens**. Works in 2022 were mainly focused on the restoration of Villa Hay, with two roofs reconstructed, *deffun* re-laid, balusters reinstated, and all external apertures restored. Pointing on localised areas was also initiated. Apart from the reconstructing of the roofs, all other works mentioned were carried out by volunteers with support from HM and public donations. The rebuilding of the partially collapsed garden wall with a neighbouring property was almost completed too. Works also commenced on the damaged loggia of the cottage. The *deffun* finish of the Sunken Garden as well as various stormwater channels in front of Villa Hay were also reserviced in order to maximise rainwater falling into one of the estate's largest reservoirs beneath the building.

## South Region

The **Għar Dalam Park** working group continued with its work to further develop the project in view of lodging an ERDF project proposal for the 2021-27 period for the implementation of the master plan [and interpretation strategy] for all the sites managed by the Agency in the Wied Dalam area. The design for the new visitor centre for the park is at an advanced stage and a development permit for the restoration of rubble walls and fencing around Ta' Kaċċatura archaeological site has been issued. A topographic survey was carried out on the new land which has been acquired by HM in the Borġ in-Nadur area. A Cost Benefit Analysis on this project has also been completed as part of the preparatory work required for the submission of an ERDF application. In line with the memorandum of understanding signed with PARKS Malta, invasive and alien plants and trees were removed, both from Wied Dalam and Borġ in-Nadur. Further landscaping works were carried out on the side of the valley, consisting mainly in the reconstruction of dry-stone rubble walls. Several trees and shrubs were planted in the area to improve the natural habitat and prevent soil erosion.

Rock-movement monitoring equipment was installed inside the cave. This equipment, including data loggers were supplied and serviced by a third-party contractor. The atmospheric data loggers continued to collect data within the cave system. Unfortunately, six months of valuable data was lost due to two power cuts. The clearing of alien/invasive species continued. Trees and bushes were pruned, and a general clean-up was carried out in all the soft area and around the *Ġnien Dinja Waħda*, including the curt ruts.

As part of the yearly maintenance of the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra archaeological park, some of the rubble walls near the pathway between Haġar Qim and Mnajdra were repaired. As one of the areas in the Maltese Islands where the night sky can still be observed, efforts are being made to diminish the spillage of security lights across the park. With this in mind, security lights at both Haġar Qim and Mnajdra were fitted with barndoors to reduce light pollution in this landscape, while still providing adequate lighting for security purposes. Barndoors will also be fitted to security lights

around the perimeter of the visitor centre in 2023. A risk assessment of the park was also carried out. New window UV stickers replaced the old ones at the visitor centre as part of the measures to reduce carbon footprint. Directional and informational signage throughout the park was updated and/or replaced as necessary.

Internal discussions were held towards identifying a way forward for the long-term maintenance of the protective shelters over *Haġar Qim* and *Mnajdra* and with regards to the management of the parking area of the park. Several concerns have been raised with regards night-time use of the parking area, which would benefit if closed to the public at night. Another matter of concern is the development application for the rebuilding of the *Haġar Qim* restaurant adjacent to HM's property, that has been presented to the authorities with the assumption that the Park's parking area will be used for a private use. HM has objected to this application, also because of the environmental impacts it will have on the park, as well as the impact on views and vistas from *Haġar Qim*.

The tender for the reconstruction of the pathway between *Haġar Qim* and *Mnajdra* and the replacement of security huts at both sites was published. It was awarded and the project kicked off in September. Following discussions with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, works on site commenced in November and are being monitored by curatorial staff. Work will involve the building of a temporary walkway and replacement of the pathway in stages, in order to maintain access to both megalithic sites at all times. This new pathway will be wider than the existing one providing access to emergency vehicles to *Mnajdra* should the need arise. The project will be concluded in 2023.

Maintenance of the protective shelter at **Tarxien Megalithic Complex** was carried out by the contractor, this being part of the 10-year plan and relative guarantees included with the original works contract. Regular maintenance by the responsible contractor was also conducted on the environmental monitoring system together with quarterly checks. Such environmental data is important when assessing protective shelter performance and future site management. Regular site upkeep such as walkway repairs and the removal of invasive species from the site was also conducted. The regular grass cutting this year was timed to lessen the impact on local bee populations. The drip irrigation that was installed in 2021 has proven fruitful with the indigenous plants planted having thrived. This adds to the visitor experience, and further works in these regards are planned, with meetings having been held to incorporate an area of the complex into one of the *Ġnien Dinja Waħda* locations. A risk assessment was conducted this year, with actions on risks identified during this exercise currently being undertaken. Monitoring of faunal activity in the area of the site continued throughout the year with measures being taken to curb the impact of such activity. The tender for the reconstruction of the perimeter walls was issued and awarded with works due to commence in early 2023. To further improve visitor experience, a new Wi-Fi network was installed within the site for use by visitors, this enables stronger Wi-Fi connectivity within the complex than previously possible. Furthermore, an agreement was signed with the Ministry for Tourism to allocate funds to the Agency for the rehabilitation of the semi-circular open space in *Triq it-Tempji Neolitici*, along the perimeter wall of the site and close to the current entrance to the visitor centre.

Work at the **Hal Saffieni Hypogeum** mainly included the pedestrianisation of *Triq iċ-Ċimiterju*, which was all paved with local hardstone, creating an ambience which is more befit to a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The project, unexpectedly, also required the replacement of all underground services,

running along this stretch of the road. The final phases of the project shall involve the installation of street furniture, including planters and benches. A new maintenance agreement for the maintenance of the BMS for the HVAC system was concluded and started being implemented. The Department continued to gather data on the environmental parameters logged by the HVAC system four times a day. This complements the automated environmental data collection of the bespoke installed environmental system within the site. Anti-slip strips were installed within the Hypogeum as part of the necessary actions identified through the risk assessment of the site. Regular maintenance together with new procedures were instituted to help keep audio-visual downtime to a minimum. A change in the ticketing system was also implemented to ensure a smoother customer ticket-buying experience.

Regular grass cutting and cleaning was conducted at **Kordin III** throughout the year as part of the site's upkeep. This year Kordin saw the introduction of electricity. This installation will enable HM to introduce security cameras next year to ensure the safety of the site, to act as a deterrent to vandals and to record what happens on-site in case any damage or vandalism is sustained by the site since the site does not have permanent security.

Considerable works were carried out at **Fort Delimara** during the period under review, including the cleaning of communication passage, parade ground, and of No. 2 BL gun embrasure, extension of the lighting system in casemates passage and communication passage, the installation of a water sink and shelving in the detention room, the installation of gutter cover on bridge, new covers for runoff water hatches, and new wooden apertures for the CCTV room. The keystone of the main gate was repaired, while the wall blocking access to the guns tunnel and the farm walls in guard room were removed. Measures were also taken to replace the security system around the fort. Preparations are underway for the installation of a new CCTV system. Furthermore, the site was equipped with relevant safety signs throughout, and dangerous areas cordoned off. A limited pest control system was also installed on-site. Following the required applications to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the removal of non-historic structures within the fort commenced, mainly those in use when the site was utilized as a pig farm. These included the removal of modern first floor room at parade ground, and the removal of pig stalls and manure in casemates tunnel. The cleaning of the fort's ditch in collaboration with Parks Malta is underway. Security around the ditch was augmented by the purchase of several concrete barriers to prevent illegal dumping. The site suffered no intrusions or vandalism during the period under review. However, the police reports lodged in 2020 are still open and unsolved.

The design for the walkways and new visitor centre at **Tas-Silġ** has been developed further through discussions held with the Superintendence for Cultural Heritage after the completion of a detailed topographical and archaeological survey. The new proposal is taking into consideration the possible deviation of the road, which is currently dividing the site, as has been envisaged through the Marsaxlokk Bay Local Plan. The planning and implementation of the alternative route shall be undertaken by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Infrastructure Malta. The works required on this site will be forming part of the ERDF application being planned for the Għar Dalam Park.

## North Region

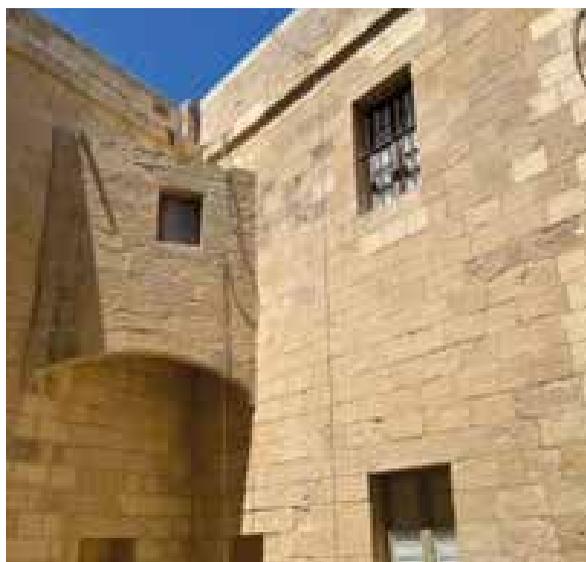
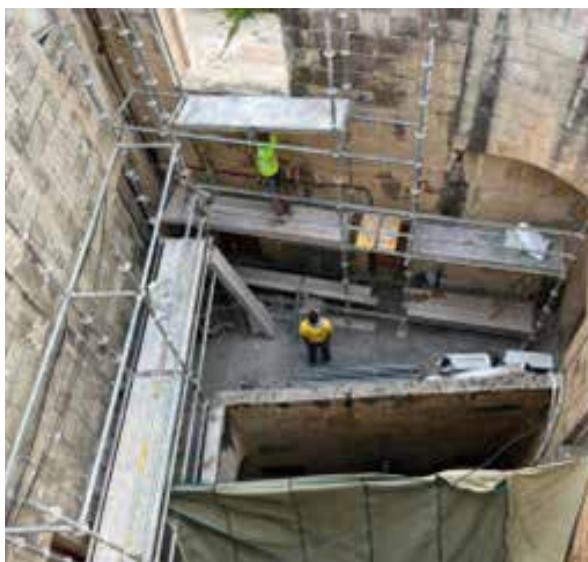
The project at **San Pawl Milqi** continued with the design of the first phases of the implementation of the management plan. In January, a small trial pit was excavated on the rear of the chapel in

preparation for the relocation of an existing electricity pole. This needs to be relocated to remove most of the cable brackets causing damage to the chapel's fabric. An air conditioner was installed in the chapel's sacristy to alleviate the hot temperatures endured by the security personnel on-site during summer.

Works at the **Domvs Romana** mainly focused on maintaining the site and upgrade the waterproofing system and the water run-off management system from the roofs. The studies and design to reinstate the skylight over the peristyle have continued and the process is now in design stage. Due to works carried out by Infrastructure Malta on a new pavement along the façade and side of the site, level changes brought about by said works created situations which could lead to interior flooding when it rains. Such anomalies were addressed in liaison with Infrastructure Malta in February. The repainting of most of the apertures was completed in March, except for the new large door leading to the outdoor ruins. Further repainting works focused on the ceiling of the corridor surrounding the peristyle, both sides of the door leading to the bathrooms, and the wall facing the back of the reception area in June.

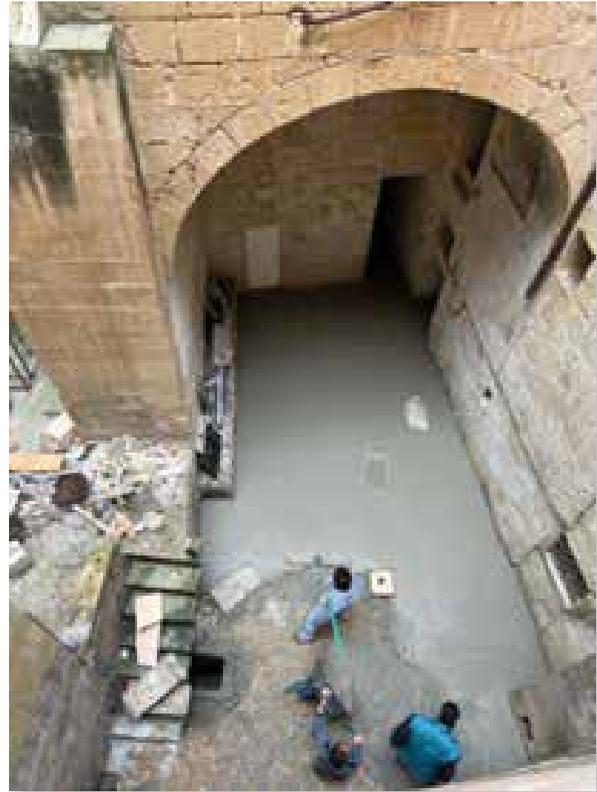
The works at the **Ta' Bistra Catacombs** were mainly focused on the maintenance of the site and the installation of a skylight to solve some third-party issues. Some mature olive trees that had to be moved from Floriana in view of the Oliver Friggieri monument were planted in the field. Birdlife has committed planting the indigenous *Pistacia lentiscus* (lentisk) tree along the passage, to be irrigated from purposely-installed water tanks together with other trees planted in the field, including twelve *Ceratonia siliqua* (carob) trees and six *Fraxinus* (ash) trees. The debris from under the quarry was also cleared.

Work continued at the **National Museum of Natural History**. In summer, a private contractor was entrusted with the restoration works of the entire open area above the Mdina Dungeons Courtyard. All walls were pointed, and weathered stones were replaced.



Before and after restoration works over the Mdina Dungeons courtyard area (Photos by John J. Borg)

A small room in a secondary courtyard behind the curatorial office was identified as the best location to host the IT cabinet for the new Mdina Lighting System. As compensation for providing the space, Infrastructure Malta replaced the floor of said courtyard, cleaned and pointed the walls up to the first floor, and installed four new doors. They also cleared all the accumulated material from site



Restoration works in secondary courtyard (Photos by John J. Borg)

Another initiative was the restoration of the main door by carpenters of the Government Garage. Once all the paint was stripped, it became apparent that a new frame and panels were required. The ornate wood was removed and treated separately. In January the door was removed from its hinges and stored under two marques in the courtyard. In the meantime, a replacement gate was setup. The new door was installed in place in June.



Government Garage carpenters with the restored main door

Other works included the restoration of three doors and one window in the main courtyard, the installation of aluminium doors in the collection's corridors on the first and second floor, providing added security to the collections and assisting to maintain a stable temperature, and the coating with liquid membrane of the former Cactus Garden area and adjacent roof, together with the entire area above the inner courtyard. The palm and olive trees in the main courtyard were also pruned. Currently, a maintenance plan is being prepared to complete the structural repairs required to the beams and 'xorok' roof of the corridor around the main courtyard (upper level) as well as continuation of the restoration works of the parapet walls and other structures at roof level.

**Abbatija tad-Dejr** was part of the HSBC voluntary scheme where volunteers cleared loads of garbage from the area. The amount of discarded waste demonstrates that a national effort to raise awareness about Abbatija tad-Dejr and the environment is still required. The Community Garden concept which started in 2020 continued successfully, with new contracts signed for a two-year period. Not only was the tenant's produce a success, but the allotment also gave them the opportunity to make new friends with similar allotment holders and the neighbours who live in the vicinity. The neighbours' comments were positive and acknowledged the hard work in order to bring the area to a lively clean space.

Works at **St Paul's Catacombs** mainly focused on the maintenance of the site, mostly a complete maintenance programme on the underground walkways, as well as the restoration of the site's boundary walls and entrance chambers into the catacombs. On the other hand, the design of the upgrade of the permanent display to include the recovered sarcophagus is entering its final phase.

The environmental management of the **Bidnija Olive Grove** continued throughout the year through the trimming of grass to prevent fire hazards and the implementation of the maintenance management with the assistance of *Ambjent Malta*, in line with ERA. Following the approval of the planning application for the restoration of the rubble walls on this site, the tender documents are being compiled by *Ambjent Malta*. Works will include repairs to all the rubble walls, the removal of reeds, cleaning and repairs of the *qanat* and the installation of an irrigation system. Besides receiving routine pest control, cleaning, and pruning, the **Salini Catacombs** benefited from the creation of a 360-degree digital tour which will eventually be uploaded on HM's website, thus making this catacomb complex accessible to a wider audience.

## Gozo Region

In February, a tender for twenty new display cases at the Ġgantija Interpretation Centre was awarded to Fibula Museum Showcases based in Turkey. The manufacture of the new showcases started in October and are expected to be delivered and installed early next year.

In January, telecommunication services and related equipment in the reception area of the **Gozo Nature Museum** were moved to the server room on the first floor. The apertures of the small windows on the ground floor overlooking the garden area were maintained, and mosquito nets installed to improve air circulation. The water culvert running along the museum's east-facing wall in the garden was cleaned of accumulated debris during summer. The water-proofing membrane was given its yearly maintenance before autumn. Loose stonework in the side walls of the stairs leading up to the first floor was fixed and pointed as necessary.

External signage at the **Old Prison** was repainted in March. A number of dead cables which had been hanging down in the courtyard of the Old Prison were removed. Maintenance works were carried out on the main door's eroded step while the same door's chassis was plastered anew. Further plastering and pointing was done to the well-head found in one of the external corridors.

At the **Gran Castello Historic House**, general upkeep of the building fabric and the garden was continuous throughout the year. In March, a CCTV camera was installed in the garden area for monitoring purposes, following several instances of illegal dumping of waste in the garden by unknown individuals. No further issues have been reported since. The outdoor benches in the same site were given basic maintenance before summer.

The staff room at the **Gozo Museum of Archaeology** was repainted. The external side door facing east and overlooking the steps leading up to St Michael's Bastion has to be replaced because the timber is in poor condition. The original fittings of the locks will be fixed onto the new door. Works are still in progress. The museum shop area was enhanced with the addition of another slat wall. This allowed a more diverse selection of merchandise. The waterproofing membrane was given its yearly maintenance. During October and November, maintenance works were carried out on the wooden apertures of the store room on the topmost floor, some external apertures on the first floor and iron grilles on the façade.

At **Ta' Kola Windmill**, the vanes and cone superstructure underwent routine maintenance work. The doors in the central tower leading to the rooftop also underwent maintenance. Re-routing of sewage drains took place in the last quarter of the year, in preparation for the upgrading of restrooms planned for 2023.

The Agency is still liaising with the Ministry for Gozo for the establishment of a **Gozo Museum** which shall be operated by the Agency. This project is funded through national funds. Representatives of HM monitor the site works and procurement processes, and provide all information for the interpretation. The civil works on-site are now nearing completion and finishes are due to commence. However, this year was characterized by a throughout cost-cutting exercise, in particular for the finishes and fit-out phases for the project, due to the evolving unstable international situation.

### National Monuments

Following the testing and consolidation phase of the **Memorial Bell** monument in the Grand Harbour, the final phase of the procurement process is underway to execute the intervention to consolidate the structure.

The site preparations for the monument to be erected in honour of Prof. **Oliver Friggieri** have commenced earlier this year through the uprooting of trees. A call for tender has been issued for the required civil and landscaping works with the contract to be awarded in the first weeks of 2023.

## EU CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

The works on the €10m **ERDF 05.016 – The Grand Master’s Palace Regeneration Project**, proceeded steadily during 2021. The restoration works in the Piano Nobile corridors and *Uccelliera* are completed. Restoration works in the other areas, including the Casa del Monte, *Orangerie* and Armoury are also at an advanced stage. In the meantime, the works now moved into the finishes phase. Works have also progressed significantly on the elements forming part of the interpretation and display, as well as the audio-visuals. Works are due for completion in the first half of 2023.

The CT3029/19 civil works tender forming part of the **‘The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage’** are now completed. These include the vaults in the silo area, which were reconstructed to what it was in 1842 and according to traditional methods, the replica of the 1842 staircase (instead of the 1990s staircase), the hanging steel structures in the large silo area, as well as the works in the internal courtyard, ancillary storage areas and boat restoration and storage facility (at two levels). Two doorways above the courtyard were reconstructed from photographic evidence in the museum archive. At second floor level, over 82 laminated wooden beams were installed along with stone slabs (*ħorok*). The deterioration in the original ceiling was so advanced that over 75% of the beams and stone slabs were replaced. This area was finished off with the laying of stone flooring, which re-constituted the floor space in existence in 1842. A number of EEA official visits were hosted at the museum. This culminated in an official three-day visit from the Stavanger Maritime Museum, which ended with a themed lunch dedicated to Malta-Norway connections through the ages.

As for the digitisation aspect of the project, this is now an established department. All staff had been employed and engaged and all the main equipment procured, including the Collections Management System. The unit has offices both in HM Head Office and at the museum on site.

Two bilateral visits between Malta and Norway were organised. Between 20 and 24 June, a delegation from HM visited Stavanger in Norway where they met representatives from MUST - Museums Stavanger and the Stavanger Maritime Museum. Between 17 and 21 October, the Norwegian team visited Malta as HM guests. During these bilateral visits, apart from the opportunity to visit the museums and sites, a lot of discussion time was dedicated to the collections management system, digitisation techniques, and challenges related to audiences and visitor engagement. These networking and knowledge sharing opportunities were very useful and highly appreciated by both parties. Both sides agreed that efforts to continue this collaboration would be rewarding to all involved.





CONSERVATION

## ORGANICS DEPARTMENT

### Paintings, Polychrome Sculpture and Wood

Interventions at the **Main Guard** are still ongoing on the walls of one of the rooms adjacent to the main hall. New interesting images were unveiled. Interventions mainly included photographic documentation, evaluating the state of conservation of the paintings, basic historical research with the assistance of Mr Denis Darmanin, compilation of reports pertaining to each painting, consolidation of detachments, delamination and flaking of the pictorial layers, removal of cement infills, infilling of losses, levelling of infills, and retouching using the *puntini* technique.

The project of the conservation of the Gran Salon at the **National Museum of Archaeology** registered further progress. During the interventions on the North Wall next to the main door, decorations were found inside a concealed arch. After the removal of stone blocks, soot, mortar, soil, a painted figure possibly of Neptune and other decorative elements were uncovered. Following this discovery and after several discussions with various professionals, it was decided that due to its historical importance, since it dates to the Knights' period, the niche was to be completely unveiled and conserved. The latter is to be carried out at a later stage. During this delicate intervention, precautions were taken to fully protect the British period decorative scheme of this prestigious hall. The 19th-century paintings under conservation were primarily faced with multiple layers of Japanese paper to protect the paint layer while removing the stone blocks blocking the niche. Pointing between the stone blocks was marked and cut meticulously by using a micro drill to safeguard the paint layer. The stone blocks were then removed one by one while also simultaneously removing the infill material including soil, other stones and pointing used to block the niche. The conservation/ restoration of this wall (excluding the frieze), was completed.

With respect to the South wall, the section over the balcony door, facing the main doorway, was also completed. This section suffered from major water infiltration and consequently the formation of salts within the substrate, causing severe powdering and liftings of the paint layer. Several complications arose during the restoration and the conservation methodology had to be altered a few times. A section of the wall adjacent to the latter is currently in its retouching phase, while another three sections of this wall are still in progress. In November, two new conservators joined the conservation team working at the Gran Salon. This will eventually aid in the completion of the South Wall.

The department was also tasked with monitoring the conservation/restoration interventions carried out by various contractors at the **Grand Master's Palace**, mainly the frescoes and wooden decorative soffits in the State Rooms and the unveiling of decorative schemes in many of the other rooms at the Palace and their subsequent conservation. Conservators participated actively in the decision-making process to ensure proper conservation/restoration ethics. The Paintings and Paper Departments regularly monitored artefacts in connection with environmental issues at **MUŻA**. Conservators from the department completed an extensive study of the wall paintings at **Villa Guardamangia** and presented a detailed report, in preparation for the eventual conservation as part of the project. Routine monthly condition assessment together with surface cleaning of all artefacts on display were carried out all year round. The senior conservator is also a member of the **Bord tal-Warrantar-Restawraturi** representing HM. Conservators also followed a number of courses as part of their Continuous Professional Development.

The following list of paintings with their decorative frame includes all projects completed during the course of this year, with most of the attention being dedicated to the Grand Master's Palace in view of the current major project.

- St Bartholomew, Giuseppe Cali, framed canvas painting, HMI6/21/2022, 66638, San Anton Palace
- Nettuno, Mermaids and Marine Horses, Frank Portelli, mural panel paintings, HMI6/42/2022, 67046, MUŻA
- St Jerome, attributed to Jose de Ribera's workshop, framed canvas painting, HMI6/57/2020, 51088, Grand Master's Palace
- Portrait of an Old Man, after Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn, framed panel painting, HMI6/93/2021, 51448, MUŻA
- Still Life with Boar, Francesco Noletti, framed canvas painting, HMI6/44/2022, 66575, MUŻA
- Still Life with Game and Fruit, after Giuseppe Recco, framed canvas painting, HMI6/04/2020, 63324, Inquisitor's Palace
- Uncovering limewashed wall decorations, unknown artist(s), wall paintings, HMI6/12/2022, no object number, Villa Guardamangia
- Major General Sir Fredrick Cavendish Ponsonby, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/135/2021, 51902, Grand Master's Palace
- Neapolitan Still Life with Flowers, artist unknown, framed canvas painting, HMI6/51/2020, 64582, Grand Master's Palace
- Neapolitan Still Life with Flowers, artist unknown, framed canvas painting, HMI6/50/2020, 51085, Grand Master's Palace
- Portrait of a girl in an armchair, Raffaele Caruana, framed canvas painting, HMI6/54/2022, 51670, MUŻA
- Yellow abstract, Giorgio Preca, unframed canvas painting, HMI6/85/2021, NA, private collection
- Santa Flora, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/102/2022, 51453, MUŻA
- A Firilla in Gale Ex-Voto showing St Joseph Interceding During a Storm at Sea, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/74/2021, 66664, Gozo Museum
- Sacra Famiglia, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/10/2022, NA, private collection
- Holy Family with St Joachim and St Anne, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/136/2021, 79788, Gozo Museum
- Portrait of Knight Fra Fabrizio Ruffo di Bagnara, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/59/2022, 66578, Grand Master's Palace
- St William receiving the Monastic Habit, after Giovanni Francesco Barbieri, framed canvas painting, HMI6/101/2022, 51449, MUŻA
- Morning at Grand Menan, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/94/2020, 80792, MUŻA
- Mythological scene, unknown artist, unframed canvas painting, HMI6/10/2022, NA, private collection
- Mary Magdalene, Giuseppe Mazzolini, framed canvas painting, HMI6/10/2022, NA, private collection
- Knight of the Order, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/103/2022, NA, Grand Master's Palace
- A Pair Embracing, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/93/2020, 80791, Collections

- Management Unit, Bigħi
- Portrait of Grand Master Pinto de Fonseca, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/100/2022, 51489, Grand Master's Palace
  - Decorative frame of a painting depicting the Guardian Angel, unknown manufacturer, gilt wooden frame, HMI6/80/2015, 18104, Gran Castello Historic House
  - Ecce Homo, Sante Peranda, framed canvas painting, HMI6/43/2022, 51191, MUŻA
  - St John Preaching in the Wilderness, Giovanni Balducci, framed canvas painting, HMI6/119/2020, 51174, MUŻA
  - Decorative frame of a painting depicting a floating iceberg, painting by Albert Bierstadt, framed canvas painting, HMI6/25/2022, 51917, MUŻA
  - Portrait of Pope Clement XIV, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/70/2020, 51098, Grand Master's Palace
  - Portrait of Bishop Gapsare Gori Mancini, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/109/2022, 51504, MUŻA
  - View of the Town and Port of Bayonne seen from Halfway Down the Glacis of the Citadel, Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz, framed canvas painting, HMI6/23/2019, 61825, Verdala Palace
  - Portrait of Pope Benedict XIV, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/54/2020, 51086, Grand Master's Palace
  - Badge of HMS *Furious*, unknown manufacturer, painted wooden badge, HMI6/66/2022, 54950, Fort St Elmo
  - Allegory of the Order of St John, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/64/2018, 61611, Malta Maritime Museum
  - Knight of St John with rapier in the scabbard, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/103/2022, 83923, Grand Master's Palace
  - Portrait of a gentleman, Francesco Zahra, framed canvas painting, Grand Master's Palace
  - Portrait of Grand Master Martin Garzes, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, HMI6/105/2022, 51942, MUŻA
  - Manufacturing of new decorative frame for a painting depicting Grand Master Zondadari, newly manufactured frame, wooden decorated frame, Grand Master's Palace
  - First-aid treatment for a full-length depiction of Jean De Fresnoy, unknown artist, framed canvas painting, Grand Master's Palace
  - St John the Evangelist, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, Inquisitor's Palace
  - Gualtieri sotto specchio, unknown manufacturer, gilt furniture, HMI6/77/2020, 72335, Inquisitor's Palace
  - Carpenters' Square/Kartabum, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal tool, HMI6/117/2021, 79857, Gozo Ethnographic Collection
  - Wooden Mallet, unknown manufacturer, wooden tool, HMI6/118/2021, 79858, Gozo Ethnographic Collection
  - Saw/*Munxar tad-Tidwir*, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal tool, HMI6/119/2021, 79865, Gozo Ethnographic Collection
  - Plane/*Ċana*, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal tool, HMI6/120/2021, 79866, Gozo Ethnographic Collection
  - Coffee grinder, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal tool, HMI6/30/2022, 79280, Gozo Ethnographic Collection
  - Small travel chest, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal box, HMI6/51/2017, 79113, Folklore

- Museum, Gozo
- Parts of adult hearse carriage, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal structure, HMI6/26/2022, 73160, Inquisitor's Palace
- Wooden plough, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal tool, HMI6/96/2022, 55149, Gozo Museum
- Y-shaped hook for gathering corn, unknown manufacturer, wooden tool, HMI6/43/2015, 17819, Gozo Museum
- Two wooden barrels, unknown manufacturer, wood and metal containers, HMI6/49/2017, 79111ABC, Gozo Museum
- Second phase of *Cancellaria's* furniture decoration, reconstruction of decorative furniture, HMI6/48/2020, NA, Inquisitor's Palace
- Structural reinforcement of four bridal chests, unknown manufacturer, wooden containers, HMI6/136/2022, 54124, Inquisitor's Palace.

## Textiles

The following list includes costumes and related accessories which were conserved during the period under review, mostly focusing on items from the Inquisitor's Palace, Gozo, and the Grand Master's Palace:

- Gozo Collection Labelling and storage, HMI6.116.2019, 79287 - 79551, Gozo
- Sir Maurice Dorman Uniform, one pair of black boots and spurs, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Two pairs of spats (white & grey), HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Black cocked hat, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Uniform two set of plums, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- One pair of white gloves, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- One pair of full-dress trousers, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Jacket/Flock coat, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Aiguillettes, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Box of mixed buttons, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Box of Gorgettes (collar badges), shoulder straps, helmet chin strap and trouser straps, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Two epaulettes, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Flag, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Belt, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Three velvet boxes and 2 Sachs, HMI6.15.2022, 66648, Grand Master's Palace
- Army blue jacket, HMI6.106.2021, 67025, National War Museum
- Army blue jacket, HMI6.106.2021, 67026, National War Museum
- Maltese flag used during the silver Jubilee, HMI6.106.2021, 67027, National War Museum
- AFM pair of khaki trousers, HMI6.106.2021, 67028, National War Museum
- AFM khaki service dress jacket, HMI6.106.2021, 67029, National War Museum
- AFM Khaki service dress, HMI6.106.2021, 67030, National War Museum
- RAF peaked cap complete with cap badge, HMI6.106.2021, 67031, National War Museum
- British India pattern Bombay bowler, HMI6.106.2021, 67032, National War Museum

- British Royal Navy (RN), HMI6.106.2021, 67033, National War Museum
- RMF uniform: black jacket, one pair epaulette, eight buttons, HMI6.106.2021, 67034, National War Museum
- 8th Battalion the Manchester Regiment, HMI6.106.2021, 67035, National War Museum
- Jolly Roger flag HM submarine surface, HMI6.106.2021, 67036, National War Museum
- One small white ensign Royal Navy, HMI6.106.2021, 67037, National War Museum
- One large white ensign Royal Navy, HMI6.106.2021, 67038, National War Museum
- Red duster (Merchant Navy), HMI6.106.2021, 67039, National War Museum
- Blue ensign RFA, HMI6.106.2021, 67040, National War Museum
- Submarine flag replica, HMI6.106.2021, 67041, National War Museum
- Admirals flag replica, HMI6.106.2021, 67042, National War Museum
- Khaki work trousers, HMI6.32.2022, 82333, National War Museum
- Khaki work shirt, HMI6.32.2022, 82334, National War Museum
- Blue ensign, HMI6.32.2022, 82335, National War Museum
- Scout banner, HMI6.32.2022, 82336, National War Museum
- Cap HM minesweepers, HMI6.32.2022, 82337, National War Museum
- USAAF uniform with a visor cap, ribbons and a pair of brown shoes of Aircraft Technician Corporal Herb Tollefson, HMI6.97.2015 & HMI6.107.2021, 60335, NWM 3283 National War Museum
- Luff badge of telephonist air gunner, HMI6.71.2022, 54948, NWM 3672, National War Museum
- Pink cotton skirt, HMI6.98.2020, 62547, G/ETHN/F/243, Gozo Collection
- Pale green wedding dress, HMI6.98.2020, 62549, G/ETHN/F/244, Gozo Collection
- Wool females underdress, HMI6.98.2020, 62550, G/ETHN/F/245, Gozo Collection
- 1960 wedding dress from San Lawrenz, HMI6.98.2020, 62551, G/ETHN/F/246, Gozo Collection
- Pale blue occasion female jacket with pleated front, HMI6.98.2020, 62552, G/ETHN/F/247, Gozo Collection
- Pale blue occasion female jacket with embroidery, HMI6.98.2020, 62553, G/ETHN/F/248, Gozo Collection
- 1940 general service military coat, HMI6.98.2020, 62560, G/ETHN/F/249, Gozo Collection
- *Trajbu* (small lace pillow), HMI6.74.2020, 79577, G/ETHN/F/258, Gozo Museum
- Shako, a pair of epaulettes, sword belt, HMI6.14.2022, 67066, Malta Maritime Museum
- Fragata Presidente Sarmiento Cap Tally, HMI6.16.2022, 81681, Malta Maritime Museum
- Embroidered mat, HMI6.52.2021, 72493, ETHN/F/2091, Inquisitor's Palace
- Serviettes/Napkins, HMI6.52.2021, 72525i – vi, ETHN/F/2121i – vi, Inquisitor's Palace
- Glass mats/doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72707i-iv, ETHN/F/2202i-iv, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72707v-viii, ETHN/F/2202v-viii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilie, HMI6.52.2021, 72707ix, ETHN/F/2202ix, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72708i-ii, ETHN/F/2203i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilie, HMI6.52.2021, 72709, ETHN/F/2204, Inquisitor's Palace
- Napkins, HMI6.52.2021, 72711i-iii, ETHN/F/2206i-iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilie, HMI6.52.2021, 72712i, ETHN/F/2207i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72712ii-vi, ETHN/F/2207ii-vi, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72712vii-xii, ETHN/F/2207vii-xii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Small mats/doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72713i-iii, ETHN/F/2208i-iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Small mats/doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72713iv-v, ETHN/F/2208iv-v, Inquisitor's Palace
- Small mats/doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72713vi-vii, ETHN/F/2208vi-vii, Inquisitor's Palace

- Doilie, HM16.52.2021, 72714i, ETHN/F/2209i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilie, HM16.52.2021, 72714ii, ETHN/F/2209ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HM16.52.2021, 72715i-ii, ETHN/F/2210i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HM16.52.2021, 72715iii, ETHN/F/2210iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Border, HM16.52.2021, 72849, ETHN/F/2215, Inquisitor's Palace
- Night dress case, HM16.52.2021, 72850, ETHN/F/2216, Inquisitor's Palace
- Night dress case, HM16.52.2021, 72851, ETHN/F/2217, Inquisitor's Palace
- Blouse, HM16.52.2021, 72867i, ETHN/F/2220i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Blouse, HM16.52.2021, 72867ii, ETHN/F/2220ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Blouse, HM16.52.2021, 72867iii, ETHN/F/2220iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Jacket, HM16.52.2021, 72867iv, ETHN/F/2220iv, Inquisitor's Palace
- Towel, HM16.52.2021, 72855i, ETHN/F/2222i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Towel, HM16.52.2021, 72855ii, ETHN/F/2222ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bedspread, HM16.52.2021, 72856, ETHN/F/2223, Inquisitor's Palace
- Blanket, HM16.52.2021, 72857, ETHN/F/2224, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bed sheet, HM16.52.2021, 72858, ETHN/F/2225, Inquisitor's Palace
- Pillowcases, HM16.52.2021, 72859i-ii, ETHN/F/2226i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Towel, HM16.52.2021, 72860, ETHN/F/2227, Inquisitor's Palace
- Pillow throws, HM16.52.2021, 72861i-ii, ETHN/F/2228i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Quarter bed cover, HM16.52.2021, 72861iii, ETHN/F/2228iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collars, HM16.52.2021, 72862i-ii, ETHN/F/2229i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Coffee tablecloth, HM16.52.2021, 72863, ETHN/F/2230, Inquisitor's Palace
- Wooden spools with thread, HM16.52.2021, 72495, ETHN/F/2093, Inquisitor's Palace
- Shopping bag, HM16.52.2021, 72648, ETHN/F/2166, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bag purse, HM16.52.2021, 72716, ETHN/F/2211, Inquisitor's Palace
- Miniature Slipper, HM16.52.2021, 72717, ETHN/F/2212, Inquisitor's Palace
- Miniature Cushion/Pillow, HM16.52.2021, 72847, ETHN/F/2213, Inquisitor's Palace
- Miniature Cushion/Pillow, HM16.52.2021, 72848, ETHN/F/2214, Inquisitor's Palace
- Prayer book, HM16.52.2021, 72852, ETHN/F/2218, Inquisitor's Palace
- Valance, HM16.52.2021, 72853i, ETHN/F/2219i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Curtain, HM16.52.2021, 72853ii, ETHN/F/2219ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Curtains, HM16.52.2021, 72853iii, iv - v, ETHN/F/2219iii-v, Inquisitor's Palace
- Cover, HM16.52.2021, 72854, ETHN/F/2221, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bag, HM16.52.2021, 72753, ETHN/F/2364, Inquisitor's Palace
- Scarf, HM16.52.2021, 72755, ETHN/F/2366, Inquisitor's Palace
- Scapulars, HM16.52.2021, 72757i-ii, ETHN/F/2093, Inquisitor's Palace
- Fox Fur Stole, HM16.52.2021, 72317, ETHN/F/1963iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HM16.52.2021, 72544i, ETHN/F/1993i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar, HM16.52.2021, 72544ii, ETHN/F/1993ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HM16.52.2021, 72544iii, ETHN/F/1993 iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HM16.52.2021, 72544iv, ETHN/F/1993iv, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HM16.52.2021, 72544v, ETHN/F/1993v, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HM16.52.2021, 72544vi - viii, ETHN/F/1993vi-viii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Baby Swaddle, HM16.52.2021, 72564, ETHN/F/2030, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HM16.52.2021, 72568i-iii, ETHN/F/2034i-iii, Inquisitor's Palace

- Blanket, HMI6.52.2021, 72528, ETHN/F/2054, Inquisitor's Palace
- T-Shirt, HMI6.52.2021, 72466, ETHN/F/2065, Inquisitor's Palace
- Gloves + Brand Plastic, HMI6.52.2021, 72494, ETHN/F/2092, Inquisitor's Palace
- Holy Communion bag, HMI6.52.2021, 72496i, ETHN/F/2094i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Gloves, HMI6.52.2021, 72496ii, ETHN/F/2094ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Holy medal, HMI6.52.2021, 72496 iii, ETHN/F/2094iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72497i – vi, ETHN/F/2095i – vi, Inquisitor's Palace
- Doilies, HMI6.52.2021, 72497vii – ix, ETHN/F/2095vii – ix, Inquisitor's Palace
- Wedding Shoes, HMI6.52.2021, 72498i-ii, ETHN/F/2096i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Scarf, HMI6.52.2021, 72509, ETHN/F/2107, Inquisitor's Palace
- Money bag, HMI6.52.2021, 72511, ETHN/F/2109, Inquisitor's Palace
- Swaddles, HMI6.52.2021, 72515i-iii, ETHN/F/2113i-iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- T-shirt, HMI6.52.2021, 72504, ETHN/F/2102, Inquisitor's Palace
- Feather fan, HMI6.52.2021, 72526, ETHN/F/2122, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bag, HMI6.52.2021, 72749, ETHN/F/2360, Inquisitor's Palace
- Gloves, HMI6.52.2021, 72527i-ii, ETHN/F/2123i-ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Fox Fur Stole, HMI6.52.2021, 72317, ETHN/F/1963iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HMI6.52.2021, 72544i, ETHN/F/1993i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar, HMI6.52.2021, 72544ii, ETHN/F/1993ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Collar/Cuffs, HMI6.52.2021, 72544iii, ETHN/F/1993iii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Mannequin 1, Small White tunic + Surplice, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 2, Small White tunic + Surplice, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 3, Small White tunic + Surplice, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 4, Small White tunic + Surplice, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 5, White tunic + white hood + white scapular + black cape + black hood, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 6, White tunic + white hood + white scapular + black cape + black hood, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 7, Alb + Amice + Belt + Dalmatic, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 8, Alb + Amice + Belt + Dalmatic, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Mannequin 9, Alb + Amice + Belt + Stole + Cope, HMI6.99.2022, Loan to Inquisitor's Palace for Dominican exhibition
- Waistcoat, HMI6.137.2022, 71350, ETHN/F/120, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bodice, HMI6.137.2022, 71356, ETHN/F/158, Inquisitor's Palace
- Bodice, HMI6.137.2022, 71362, ETHN/F/204, Inquisitor's Palace
- Banyan, HMI6.01.2020, 70379, ETHN/F/238, Inquisitor's Palace
- Skirt, HMI6.39.2018, 72125, ETHN/F/1803, Inquisitor's Palace
- Purse, HMI6.137.2022, 50397, ETHN/F/128, Inquisitor's Palace
- Cap, HMI6.137.2022, 50407, ETHN/F/252, Inquisitor's Palace

- Beaded hood, HMI6.137.2022, 50455, ETHN/F/256, Inquisitor's Palace
- Stomacher, HMI6.137.2022, 50488, ETHN/F/260, Inquisitor's Palace
- Stomacher, HMI6.18.2018, 71399, ETHN/F/541, Inquisitor's Palace
- Hat, HMI6.137.2022, 50444, ETHN/F/857, Inquisitor's Palace
- Hat, HMI6.137.2022, 71922, ETHN/F/860, Inquisitor's Palace
- Fan, HMI6.108.2014, 70438, ETHN/F/868i, Inquisitor's Palace

## Books and Paper

The following projects concerning flat works were completed during the period under review, mostly concerning Gozo collections, MUZA, and the Malta Maritime Museum, apart from other collections as listed below:

- Harbour view oil on paper, HMI6.110.2019, 80800, Collections
- Letter referring to Mannarino Gaetano, HMI6.103.2021, 66523, Collections
- Fermata di Bus, HMI6.121.2022, 60718, Collections
- Garzes Tower, early 19th-century watercolour by Salvatore Busuttill, HMI6.47.2021, 4761-62, Gozo Museum
- View of Mushroom Shelf or Rock, HMI6.122.2021, 79907, Gozo Museum
- Remains of an ancient Edifice called the Giants Tower, HMI6.123.2021, 79909, Gozo Museum
- *Lehen Ghawdex*, HMI6.124.2021, 79906, Gozo Museum
- Leslie Rundle early 20th-century autographed B&W photograph, HMI6.47.2021, 61831, Gozo Museum
- Gozitan Lace maker B&W postcard (turn of 20th c), HMI6.47.2021, 79757, Gozo Museum
- The Fungus Rock, aquatint by Jean Houel, 1780s, HMI6.47.202, 79604, Gozo Museum
- The Clockmaker's Saltpans, aquatint by Jean Houel, 1780s, HMI6.47.2021, 79609, Gozo Museum
- 1926 letter and envelope sent from onboard the *Orient Line*, from a Gozitan migrant to family back home, HMI6.47.2021, 79191, Gozo Museum
- 1926 letter and envelope sent to Giuseppa Saliba of Żebbuġ, Gozo, by her husband who had migrated, HMI6.47.2021, 79192, Gozo Museum
- 1929 letter and postcard sent by a Gozitan migrant to his family back home, HMI6.47.2021, 79193, Gozo Museum
- Buckingham letter, HMI6.26.2020, 60990i, Gozo Museum
- Pasmore Calypso II, HMI6.25.2021, 61833, Gozo Museum
- Pasmore Calypso I, HMI6.24.2021, 61834, Gozo Museum
- View of Mushroom Shelf or Rock, HMI6.122.2021, 79907, Gozo Museum
- Remains of an ancient Edifice called the Giants Tower, HMI6.123.2021, 79909, Gozo Museum
- The War in Egypt: The Hospital at Gozo, Malta, HMI6.128.2021, 51067, Gozo Museum
- Vue du Chateau et du Faubourg, HMI6.126.2021, 79905, Gozo Museum
- Etching with aquatint by Evelyn Gibbs (1905-1991), HMI6.125.2021, 61677, Gozo Museum
- 18th-century map by Jean Houel, HMI6.127.2021, 79902, Gozo Museum
- 18th-century map of Malta and Gozo, HMI6.129.2021, 61930, Gozo Museum
- 19th-century map of Malta and Gozo, HMI6.130.2021, 61676, Gozo Museum
- Palazzo dell'Inquisitore façade elevation plan, HMI6.188.2014, 64416, Inquisitor's Palace
- Inquisitor's Palace façade 2nd floor plan 1917, HMI6.187.2014, 64415, Inquisitor's Palace

- Inquisitor's Palace first floor plan 1917, HMI6.186.2014, 64414, Inquisitor's Palace
- Inquisitor's Palace section elevations 1908 & 1893, HMI6.185.2014, 64413, Inquisitor's Palace
- Inquisitor's Palace façade and staircase 1917, HMI6.184.2014, 66412, Inquisitor's Palace
- Sectional elevations blueprint, HMI6.189.2014, 64417, Inquisitor's Palace
- Framed manuscript, HMI6.119.2022, 73195, Inquisitor's Palace
- Government Gazette, HMI6.39.2019, 61915, Malta Maritime Museum
- A perspective view, HMI6.89.2022, 82625, MMM004551, Malta Maritime Museum
- Lateral elevation of a Galley, HMI6.89.2022, 82862, MMM003810, Malta Maritime Museum
- Map of Malta, HMI6.89.2022, 82874, MMM004202, Malta Maritime Museum
- Compendio d'Artiglieria, HMI6.89.2022, 82626, MMM004552, MSI, Malta Maritime Museum
- Indirizzi. Maithland, HMI6.89.2022, MMM. RB 31, Malta Maritime Museum
- Processo di Charles, HMI6.89.2022, MMM. RB 32, Malta Maritime Museum
- Map of Mediterranean Sea showing Malta, HMI6.321.2011, 50616, MUŻA
- Map of Malta with text, HMI6.48.2011, 50048, MUŻA
- Map of Valletta, HMI6.56.2011, 50056, MUŻA
- Map of Valletta and Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80158, MUŻA
- Map of Valletta and Three Cities, HMI6.7.2022, 80253, MUŻA
- View of old marina, HMI6.7.2022, 52855, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80299, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80154, MUŻA
- Valletta with only fortification walls, HMI6.7.2022, 80183, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80062, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80091, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80079, MUŻA
- Map of Malta (coloured), HMI6.7.2022, 80075, MUŻA
- Map of Grand Harbour, HMI6.7.2022, 80199, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80089, MUŻA
- Map of Grand Harbour, HMI6.7.2022, 80203, MUŻA
- Map of Malta, HMI6.7.2022, 80071, MUŻA
- Boy near sea by Caruana Dingli, HMI6.139.2022, 83205, MUŻA
- Laurent Nicolaii, HMI6.120.2022, 82665, MUŻA
- Drawing by Vittore Carpaccio, HMI6.138.2022, 52485, MUŻA
- Ruins of Haġar Qim by Brockdorff, HMI6.140.2022, 53233, MUŻA
- St Catherine Framing, HMI6.46.2021, 54922, MUŻA
- Urgent framing for MUŻA exhibition, HMI6.690.2012, 80307, MUŻA
- Maltese ladies by Michele Bellanti, HMI6.13.2022, 67062, MUŻA
- HMS Geyser by Michele Bellanti, HMI6.13.2022, 67063, MUŻA
- Teste di Raffaello Sanzio by Pietro Paolo Caruana book, HMI6.13.2022, 66790, MUŻA
- Christ and his disciples in Gethsemane by Antonio Falzon, HMI6.13.2022, 67061, MUŻA
- St Paul's chapel ta Wied il Hasel, by Filippo Benucci, HMI6.13.2022, 53222, MUŻA
- Rinoplastia by Michele Bellanti, HMI6.13.2022, 67064, MUŻA
- Costumi di Malta frontispiece by Pietro Paolo Caruana, HMI6.13.2022, 67060, MUŻA
- Cloth merchant by Pietro Paolo Caruana, HMI6.13.2022, 67065, MUŻA
- Remounting and reframing of St Thomas in custom frame, HMI6.100.2019, 62622, MUŻA
- Poultry Dealer by Michele Bellanti, HMI6.100.2019, 62614, MUŻA

- Figure from Raffaello's transfiguration by Cali, HM16.100.2019, 62621, MUŻA
- Epileptic figure from Rafeallo's transfiguration by Cali, HM16.100.2019, 61453, MUŻA
- Pen and Wash of an alterfront, HM16.100.2019, 62626, MUŻA
- Marina gate by Michele Bellanti, HM.16.55.2022, 53240, MUŻA
- Entrance to Valletta from Marina by Michele Bellanti, HM.16.55.2022, 53202, MUŻA
- Strada Vescovo by Michele Bellanti, HM.16.55.2022, 53205, MUŻA
- Auberge de Provence by Brocktorff, HM.16.55.2022, 52226, MUŻA
- The Palace, Valletta by Michele Bellanti, HM.16.55.2022, 53247, MUŻA
- View of Ball monument, HM16.66.2018, 61638, MUŻA
- View of Dockyard by Schranz, HM16.94.2017, 61101, MUŻA
- View of Strada Reale by Schranz, HM16.88.2017, 61049, MUŻA
- The new aqueduct by Michele Bellanti, HM16.269.2012, 80523, MUŻA
- Souvenir de Malte, HM16.269.2012, 80525, MUŻA
- Strada San Cristoforo, HM16.69.2016, 64753, MUŻA

## INORGANICS DEPARTMENT

### Metal, Ceramic, Glass, Stone and Underwater Archaeology

The Objects Conservation Lab and the Conservation Lab for Underwater Archaeology were assimilated into the Inorganics Conservation Department in May. Nonetheless, each lab kept its distinct function.

During this year, team members were provided with further training to strengthen their knowledge and skills. Focused extensive training, in collaboration with the International Conservation of Underwater Archaeology in Zadar, Croatia (ICUA), was provided on the conservation of inorganic and organic archaeological material retrieved from the sea. This training was held in the specifically set up Conservation Lab for Underwater Archaeology, in Bighi. It facilitated the conservator-restorers to be more flexible and assertive in their performance. Other continuous professional development sessions took place throughout the year.

The department was involved in various projects that entailed the conservation-restoration of a substantial number of artefacts. These include the Grand Master's Palace, Ghajn Klieb & Ghajn Qajjet, the Gozo Museum, Xrobb l-Għaġin archaeological site, the Grenfell's Egyptian Collection, and various artefacts from the National War Museum. The major priority focused on the Grand Master's Palace Project. Conservation works consisted of the restoration of steel armour and armorial shields sculpted in limestone and marble. Another major project was the Ghajn Klieb & Ghajn Qajjet project, in which case, various silver and copper-alloy jewellery excavated from the site tombs were conserved. The Gozo Museum Collection together with the collection of over 200 Egyptian figurines making part of Lord Grenfell's collection, were completed by the end of the year.

The ongoing conservation of the megalithic temples of Haġar Qim continued. Another two archaeological sites that were given specific attention were Tas-Silġ and Xrobb l-Għaġin. In the first case, a section of the flooring of a specific area was detached to expose the underlying strata for archaeologists to excavate. In the second case, the condition of each stone member was assessed

before the site was reburied. Ongoing conservation was not limited to archaeological sites but also practised on monuments/memorials prior to the commemorative date, as deemed required. These included the Sette Giugno 1919 monument, the Independence monument, and the Dun Karm Psaila monument.

Throughout this year, assessment and ongoing maintenance were undertaken at the sites of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, the Domvs Romana, the Għajn Tuffieħa Baths and MUŻA. Other conservation projects included the assessment and conservation of artefacts for exhibitions such as those in Gerace, Corsica, and the Gozo Ministry.

This year, the Inorganics Conservation Department and the Digitisation Department collaborated consistently on the application of 3-D scanning and 3-D printing in conservation. This included the construction of a support for part of a medieval glass bowl and the reconstruction of lacunae of a 20th-century ceramic plate, using inert material. The main objective was to minimise the use of invasive interventions to stabilise the artefacts.

The projects undertaken during the year were the following:

- Bead, HMI6/4/2022, Domvs Romana
- Small bowl from the rython glass showcase, HMI6/113/2022, Domvs Romana
- Conservation of three bone hairpins, HMI6/68/2022, Domvs Romana
- Cleaning of mosaic flooring and artefacts, HMI6/69/2022, Domvs Romana
- Seven amphorae, HMI6/5/2022, Gozo Museum of Archaeology
- Two elephant tusks and ceramic handle, HMI6/108/2021, Gozo Museum of Archaeology
- Architectural fragment with leaf decoration, HMI6/122/2022, Gozo Museum of Archaeology
- Juglet, HMI6/6/2022, Gozo Museum of Archaeology
- Five ceramic amphorae, in fragments, HMI6/40/2022, Gozo Museum of Archaeology
- Conservation of already desalinated material, excavated from Quarantine Hospital, HMI6/23/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Desalination of material excavated from Quarantine Hospital, HMI6/24/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Excavated material in 2001, off Manoel Island, HMI6/31/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Grenfell's Egyptian collection, HMI6/33/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Conservation of artefact which came apart from old restoration, HMI6/52/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Items from Mesquita Square, Mdina 1998 - Batch 2, HMI6/73/2021, National Museum of Archaeology
- Items from Mesquita Square, Mdina 1998 - Batch 1, HMI6/75/2021, National Museum of Archaeology
- Smoking pipe & cranium from the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, HMI6/90/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Two horns from Tarxien Temples, HMI6/97/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Black-figure ware vase, HMI6/19/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- Large pottery vessels, HMI6/60/2022, National Museum of Archaeology
- St Angelo battery panel at Fort St Angelo, HMI6/41/2022, in situ

- Ceramic strainer bowl, HMI6/50/2022, Ġgantija Temples
- Re-assembly of clay statuette, HMI6/53/2022, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Joseph holding baby Jesus, HMI6/57/2022, Inquisitor's Palace
- Maintenance of the Sette Giugno Monument, HMI6/56/2022, in situ
- Stone stopper, HMI6/72/2022, St Paul's Catacombs
- Amphora, HMI6/73/2022, St Paul's Catacombs
- Catacomb numbers, HMI6/102/2021, St Paul's Catacombs
- Ġhajj Klieb and Ġhajj Qajjet artefacts, HMI6/121/2021, St Paul's Catacombs
- Intervention at Tas-Silġ, HMI6/75/2022, in situ
- Nocturnal, HMI6/76/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Hanger, HMI6/77/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Ottoman Kilij, HMI6/78/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Half-balls chain shot, HMI6/79/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Artillery range finder with GM Manuel Pinto da Fonseca coat of arms, HMI6/80/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Conservation work on grindstone, HMI6/118/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Organic finds excavated from Dockyard Creek, HMI6/128/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Iron treasure corsair box, HMI6/81/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Bone dice (set of three), HMI6/82/2022, Malta Maritime Museum
- Telephone room sign, HMI6/83/2022, Fort St Elmo
- Bust portrait of Ruth Cierco by Joseph Mary Genuis, HMI6/86/2022, MUŻA
- Bust Portrait of a Young man by Giorgio Borg, HMI6/87/2022, MUŻA
- Seven plaster casts from School of Arts, HMI6/125/2022, MUŻA
- Glass perfume bottle, HMI6/37/2022, MUŻA
- Assessment of storage area, HMI6/11/2022, MUŻA
- Plaster cast of a brother and sister, HMI6/38/2022, MUŻA
- Bust of Edward Caruana Dingli, HMI6/39/2022, MUŻA
- Conservation of Stampede plaster by V. Apap, HMI6/61/2022, MUŻA
- Two limestone urns, HMI6/84/2022, MUŻA
- Set of bowls by Moore Brothers & Minton, HMI6/97/2019, MUŻA
- Dangerous Sport sculpture by Antonio Sciortino, HMI6/463/2014, MUŻA
- Painted plaster cast of Cynthia Turner, HMI6/151/2011, MUŻA
- Cleaning and assessment of pharmacy jars for Gerace, HMI6/30/2021, MUŻA
- Bust portrait of George Fenech by Edward Pirootta, HMI6/88/2022, MUŻA
- Desalination of material excavated from Salina in 2022, HMI6/98/2022, University of Malta
- *Banju taż-Żingu*, HMI6/106/2022, National War Museum
- Lot of artefacts, HMI6/85/2022, National War Museum
- RAF Safi cup, HMI6/107/2022, National War Museum
- Metal artefacts - various, HMI6/66/2022, National War Museum
- 2 4.5-inch cartridges from SS. Talabot, HMI6/27/2019, National War Museum
- Small iron cannonball, HMI6/45/2018, National War Museum
- Two mess tins, HMI6/114/2022, National War Museum
- Padlock, HMI6/185/2011, National War Museum
- British bomb tail, HMI6/115/2022, National War Museum
- Two 3.7-inch AA cartridges, HMI6/127/2022, National War Museum

- Forty-one marble and stone armorial shields, HMI6/108/2022, Palace Armoury
- Halberd, HMI6/123/2022, Palace Armoury
- Thirty-five peaked morions, HMI6/28/2021, Palace Armoury
- Decorated armour, HMI6/70/2021, Palace Armoury
- Siege armour (showcase 36), HMI6/95/2022, Palace Armoury
- Condition assessment of Xrobb l-Għajin archaeological site, HMI6/116/2022, in situ
- Reinstatement of sculpture's head, HMI6/146/2022, National Museum of Natural History
- Backfill monitoring at Għajin Tuffieħa Roman baths, HMI6/9/2021, in situ
- Five fire-post signs at Fort St Elmo, HMI6/60/2021, in situ
- Maintenance of Dun Karm Psaila Monument, HMI6/63/2021, in situ
- Plates from Villa Guardamangia, HMI6/77/2021, Villa Guardamangia
- Stabilisation of two stones in Neolithic niche, HMI6/84/2021, Borġ in-Nadur
- Reinstatement of Apses SE and SW, HMI6/96/2021, Borġ in-Nadur
- Marble plaque at Maċina, l-Isla, HMI6/86/2021, in situ
- Drilling of holes within sacrificial layer of floor for installation of anti-slip plates, HMI6/98/2021, Hal Saflieni Hypogeum
- Cleaning of Hypogeum pillar 15, HMI6/101/2021, in situ
- Reinstatement of toppled megalith at Skorba, HMI6/100/2021, in situ
- Fishmonger scales, HMI6/112/2021, Gozo Museum
- Set of seven weights, HMI6/111/2021, Gozo Museum
- Two prehistoric sherds, HMI6/47/2022, Gozo Museum
- Two sickles, HMI6/92/2022, Gozo Museum
- Four agricultural tools, HMI6/93/2022, Gozo Museum
- Fragmented carinated bowl, HMI6/48/2022, Gozo Museum
- Metal plough, HMI6/94/2022, Gozo Museum
- Fishmonger licence plate, HMI6/113/2021, Gozo Museum
- Boat builder tools, HMI6/114/2021, Gozo Museum
- Harness, HMI6/74/2020, Gozo Museum
- Honey extractor, HMI6/120/2019, Gozo Museum
- Cannon balls, HMI6/122/2019, Gozo Museum
- Desalination and conservation of excavated material from underwater sites, HMI6/116/2021, University of Malta
- Ongoing maintenance at Haġar Qim Temples, HMI6/37/2019, in situ
- Bells' beam, HMI6/94/2019, Tal-Pilar

### Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL)

As with previous years, DSL continued its important role of taking on projects in support of the curatorial and conservation domains. A clear maintenance and security plan started being devised for DSL, given the current state of upkeep and lack of modernisation. Security concerns have been tackled by installing access controls on all doors. A holistic plan for the modernisation and upkeep of DSL will be presented as part of the Bighi regeneration project.

DSL continued with its MAT1001 IAEA project implementation, lengthened by the Covid pandemic impact. The final task to implement was DSL staff radiography certification, since the training company

failed to honour the set targets and will only be providing DSL staff with the safety part of the certification. The theory and practice part will be sourced via other means in 2023. The contracted safety exam took place in December.

Implementation of MAT1001 continued with the final segment of radiography safety training and assessment. Given that DSL's relationship with the IAEA is deeper than project implementation, additional responsibilities for Malta's representation in the IAEA's cultural heritage domain developed. During the year several initiatives took place. The IAEA's Office of Public Information and Communication chose DSL for a cultural heritage nuclear science international promotional trailer. This was filmed in Malta in March and launched at the IAEA's general conference in Vienna in September. During this last event and following an invitation, DSL's Manager presented at a Side Event titled 'Revealing Secrets Using Nuclear Techniques'. Case studies on how non-invasive techniques aid Malta's cultural heritage conservation and research domains were presented. This exposed HM's scientific work to a worldwide audience, continuing to propel DSL's status on the international heritage science platform. Stemming from this event, DSL was approached by BBC Arabic, which showcased interest for a documentary on heritage science and technology, that would be available on the BBC Arabic Platform, BBC 4Tech and other platforms. Preliminary content discussions have already taken place. Filming should take place in January 2023. DSL was also chosen to host an IAEA regional training course on radiography applied to cultural heritage, taking place at Fort St Elmo in July, and contributed to course content design and delivery alongside other international experts. Participants were chosen via an IAEA regional project call. This year also saw the design implementation phase for the 2024-25 national project cycle, which included a meeting in Vienna in July.

An approach made by an international consortium to participate in a new Horizon project was accepted by DSL. It reached its peak with project design submission in June, which obtained a very high score, yet the fund distribution did not enable the CAESAR consortium to obtain any funds, as previously placed applicants took up the budget prior to it reaching our project. Given that feedback was immensely positive, the consortium plans to submit it in a new cycle. During this year HM also started sitting on the newly formulated ERIHS national node committee, a group of individuals that will focus their attention on building the local process for project submissions to the ERIHS platform, once up and running.

As part of DSL's outreach programme, various activities were held. Tiny Teen programme participation continued, with DSL visiting primary schools to showcase how science is applied in cultural heritage. The aim of this initiative is to encourage students to take up STEM subjects in their future optional choices for career development. An event at Naxxar Primary took place in March and a virtual session with Mqabba Primary took place in April. In July, *The Malta Independent on Sunday* carried a news article about DSL's application. It was titled 'Nuclear technologies play a pivotal role in protecting and preserving Malta's cultural heritage' and consisted of an interview on HM's investments in a key part of its application for newfound research knowledge and object preservation. During the same month, DSL appeared in a ONE News bulletin during which DSL's investments were reported with supportive filming and an interview. In August, ONE programme *Indigo* hosted DSL's manager for a discussion on scientific applications in cultural heritage and how technology is driving forward new knowledge about our historical legacy. September saw DSL returning to Science in the City, with an event titled 'We are What we Eat' held at Fort St Elmo. Case studies showcased the use of

isotopes for purposes of dating bones and to track an individual's diet, as part of historical research. In September, a DSL scientist participated in a STEM career-related event, as part of the University of Malta's GEM EU project involvement. It aims to empower girls to tap into their STEM, digital and entrepreneurial potential. DSL's representative spoke about her academic background and role. DSL also participated in an Archaeological Society evening lecture in December on scientific techniques applied to archaeological sciences.

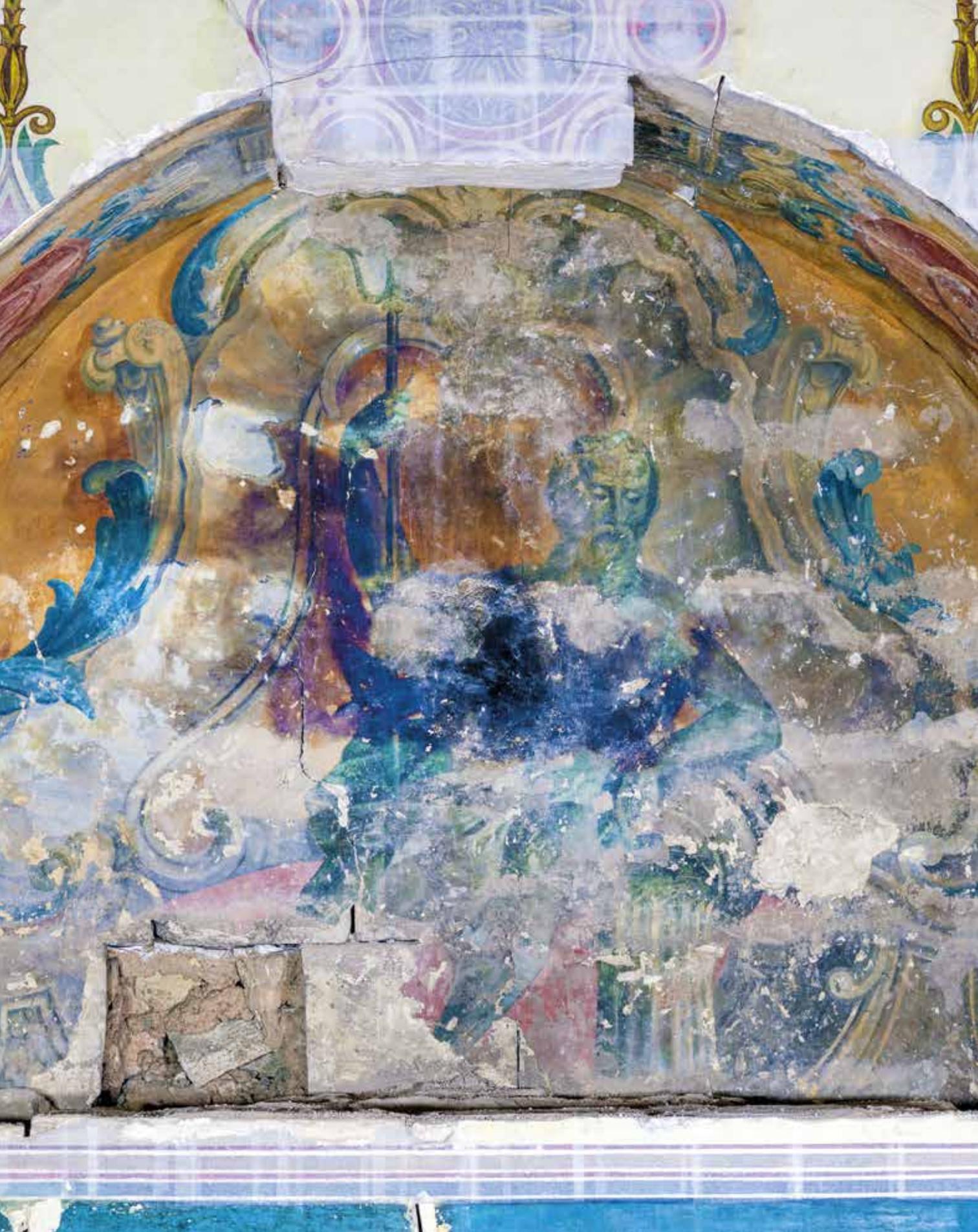
DSL supported conservators as part of their CPD programme with three lectures on science applied to cultural heritage. 'Redefining chemistry basics for conservators' took place in July, 'Spectroscopy and its meaning to scientific analysis in our sector' in September, and 'X-ray Techniques: Analytical and Imaging Power' in November. These sessions were available to all HM Conservators and external ones. November also saw DSL inviting over 100 employees, including senior management, for a tour around DSL, presenting them with new technologies available for use, for both conservation support and historical research.

During the year, DSL assisted two students as part of their academic studies. Jacob Bezzina (Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering) and Alexandra Humann (Department of Classics and Archaeology) were provided with scientific analysis services. Laura Zerafa (Department of Metallurgy and Materials Engineering) is also being provided with scientific analysis for her research project and is also being co-supervised by a DSL staff member. DSL also recruited two MCAST apprentice lab technicians until the end of summer 2023.

In the year under review, DSL concluded thirty-seven projects. These were split into sixteen HM conservation and curatorial projects and twenty-one external projects. Due to DSL's schedule being full for several months, some private work requests had to be rejected. Pending projects amount to twenty-four, twenty of which relate to the internal conservation and curatorial domains and four external projects. These will be transferred to 2023. External projects undertaken by DSL brought an income of €34,456 (excl. VAT). The fee for services rendered to the National Archives of Malta was waived. The current open external projects load will bring in an additional income of over €9,500 (excl. VAT).

### Preventive Conservation

The unit continued its work to care for objects and their respective preservation. Once again, particular focus was on MUŻA, as the RH problem is not yet fully resolved. With an algorithm finally being installed, we can now successfully see a stable 22°C climate in two test spaces. Yet, RH with the new dehumidifiers is still not stable. The latter's supplier is restudying the issues at hand for a resolution. Contribution to the Gozo Museum project continued, as did that related to the Grand Master's Palace. Involvement in the latter project is now peaking at seeing the installation of the environmental monitoring system. UCL has been supported in student projects for both Villa Guardamangia and Fort Delimara. Hypogeum climatic monitoring is becoming important due to current issues in mould spread. Thus, correlating to other environmental factors is essential. Finally, plans are currently being drafted for an environmental logging layout to record the current climate in the Malta Maritime Museum, which is the same climate objects have been exposed to for many years. This is to decide as to which level of control HM should go to in the museum's regeneration.





COLLECTIONS  
& RESEARCH

A considerable number of cultural heritage objects and natural specimens were acquired for the National Collection during the year under review. A full list with details (including purchases, donations and transfers) can be found in **Appendices 2, 3, 4 and 5** respectively.

In total ninety-five donations (comprising thousands of items) were registered, apart from around 560 natural specimens. Notable among them are an oil on canvas painting by Giorgio Preca titled 'White table with bowl' by Massimo and Fabiola Preca, a massive collection of 1,428 photographs and postcards of submarines and warships in Maltese harbours from the 1880s to the 1970s by Dr Giovanni Bonello, and a major collection of items related to the Maltese Carnival, including memorabilia, documentation and paraphernalia by George Zahra.

Furthermore, the National Agency also invested directly in cultural heritage through the direct purchase of several items. Forty-one purchases were documented, the most noteworthy of which are undoubtedly a letter by Horatio Nelson to Lady Hamilton from off Malta in 1800 for the Malta Maritime Museum, a lot of photographs, letters and other documents on Villa Guardamangia and its former owner Joseph Schembri, an inquisitorial document of 1760, two 18th-century Maltese silver dinner knives and one serving fork, a historical Italian billiard table for the historic house project at the Inquisitor's Palace, and a pair of carved limestone and plaster urns for MUŻA. Worthy of separate mention are three paintings featuring Grand Masters Raymond du Puy and Blessed Gerard, and Sta Ubaldesca, for the Palace Armoury. Another fifteen paintings were purchased by various ministries and registered in the National Collection.

Moreover, best use was made of the budget allocation for **Modern and Contemporary Art Acquisitions** through Line Vote 5557. A considerable number of works were acquired, described in **Appendix 2**. The same applies for Line Vote 5824, which concerns the acquisition of artworks and other items for the **Gozo Museum**. Seven acquisitions were registered, including multiple items, the most remarkable being the personal library and other belongings of Joseph G. Huntingford (1926-94), the architect responsible for the building which shall host the said museum. All objects are listed in **Appendix 4**.

The **Collections Management Department** continued with its relentless work of cataloguing extant collections and newly acquired objects, the updating of inventories of museums, ministries and various Government offices, through liaison with the public officers responsible for these inventories within the relevant departments. Several ministries have notified in advance of the transfer of artefacts registered in the National Collection and forwarded relevant documentation for the registration of newly acquired works of art in the National Collection. Site inventory checks were conducted at the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the relevant ministry staff.

About 3,600 maps from the National Museum of Archaeology were given object numbers and listed in the National Collection. Objects transferred from the former Police museum at the Police Depot in Floriana were also given object numbers. Around 3000 object numbers were also issued for the Malta Maritime Museum collection.

Furthermore, the department is responsible for the registration of conservation projects, generation of their related files, including monitoring of timeframes, recording mobility of the collections, updating, and concluding all the documentation in these files. A total 147 of conservation projects by the six

conservation laboratories and DSL were registered, covering the conservation of 283 artefacts as follows: 26 conservation projects by the Paintings and Wood laboratory, 67 conservation projects by the Objects laboratory, eight conservation projects by the Textiles laboratory, 27 conservation projects by the Books and Paper laboratory, and eight scientific investigative projects by the DSL.

Further progress has been registered in the ongoing work to systematically organise the various collections at the **National Museum of Natural History**. The entire Minerals collection has been catalogued, wrapped in bubble wrap and acid-free paper, and placed in storage boxes. In December, a speleothem of unknown origin, was sent to the Max Planck Institute of Chemistry in Mainz, Germany, for a series of tests related to paleo-climate. The speleothem will be cut in half along its longitudinal axis and once studies have been conducted, it will be polished and sent back to be placed on display at the museum or Ghar Dalam. Seventy-six tailor-made cardboard boxes were constructed and lined with plastazote to hold individual long-bones and 'lots' of molars, vertebrae and other small bones. The Quaternary collection is being re-organised in preparation for new storage cabinets due next year. This exercise will continue in 2023 and will also include the large quantities of deer bones and teeth and all the other groups (Testudo, Lacerta Bufo etc.). The birds and micro-mammals collection was placed in separate cardboard boxes and re-organised according to species. Ms Mayra Camilleri a First Year BA (Archaeology) student has been volunteering one day a week to assist in the re-organisation and digitisation of this collection.



Hippopotami molars categorised by kind and placed in new boxes

Hippopotami molars and jaw fragments in new boxes and placed in respective drawers



The fossil collection presented to HM by the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage (SCH) late last year, has been formally catalogued.



Part of the fossil collection confiscated by the Police and passed on to the NMNH by the SCH  
(Photo by John J. Borg)

Eleven fish specimens from the old collections were cleaned. Layers of varnish were removed from each specimen and eventually coated with paraloid. These specimens and others in the collection will next year be displayed in the Harry Micallef Marine Hall. Six crabs from the old Crustacean collections were also cleaned. The varnish coating was removed and replaced with paraloid, thus highlighting the species' natural colours. Thirty specimens from the Constantine Mifsud Collection & Argotti Collection were rehoused in museum standard boxes.



Spider Crab: left side cleaned from varnish  
(Photo by John J. Borg)

The entire mammal collection was moved to the three halls on the first floor, overlooking the internal courtyard. This created more space on the upper floors and allowed for the preparation of the specimens for eventual display in said halls. As in past years, the museum benefitted greatly from the assistance of the 'resident' volunteers, namely Paul Sammut, Charles Sammut, Constantine Mifsud and Charles Cachia, who continued their sterling work on the Conchology collections. In this respect, the Maltese Land-snail collection was re-

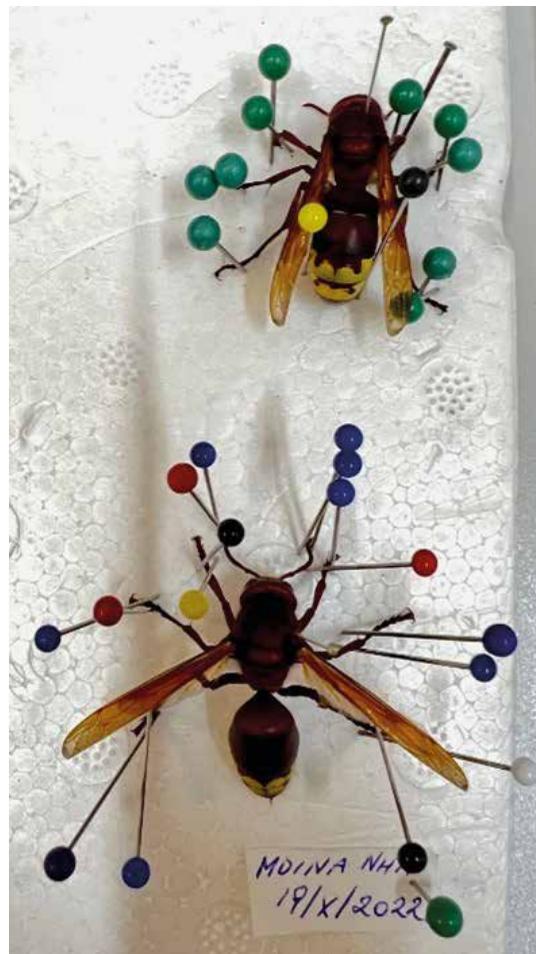
organised according to the new nomenclature by the museum volunteers, while thirty specimens from the Constantine Mifsud Echinoderm Collection were moved to more appropriate fluid preservation containers.

The same applies for the Entomology collections. One display box showing exotic beetles and stick insects was removed from the Gozo Nature Museum for conservation purposes. All specimens were cleaned and replaced in the Coleoptera collection. Sixty-seven new glass-topped boxes were acquired in November. These will host the Diptera, Hymenoptera and Heteroptera collections. The digitisation and re-organisation of the Entomology collection progressed at a steady pace. The exercise of collating all the same species together, irrespective of donor/collector is also progressing: butterflies of Malta gathered and sorted taxonomically in PEL cases from various boxes, various collections including De Lucca, Lanfranco and Zammit were transferred from old cabinets to new ones and ordered taxonomically, object forms were compiled for new material, and Guido Lanfranco's notes on his Lepidoptera collection were transcribed.



The Hymenoptera from the Lanfranco Collection  
(Photo by John J. Borg)

Oriental Hornets (queens) found at the museum and prepared for the reference collection  
(Photo by John J. Borg)



The continuous inflow of donations and confiscated bird specimens is creating a major storage issue. A fourth room on the top floor has been prepared for the purpose. Ten showcases, which mostly came with the birds themselves, were placed within and are already almost full. To facilitate working in said hall, a new electrical system was installed. The re-organisation and digitisation of the ornithological collection is well underway, with 2022 being the cut-off date for the material to be included in the



publication of the Bird Collection Catalogue. The Police quarantine room was relocated to the top floor close to the main bird collections hall. A small number of stuffed and mounted birds on display at the Gran Castello Historic House (turtle dove, quail, woodcock and golden plover), were removed and placed back in the reference collection at Mdina.

Re-organisation of the entire bird collection  
(Photo by John J. Borg)

The **Integrated Pest Management** group's work proceeded steadily. The worm issue at the Hypogeum continued to persist. During this year's cleaning exercise, a small number of said worm was collected and are kept alive at the museum. The senior curator is in contact with a specialist from the UK to identify the species. A total of ten glue traps placed in various areas at Fort Delimara were brought to the museum

for the identification of the trapped invertebrates. A lecture on the Agency's IPM Strategy was delivered to all curatorial staff in June, and a guideline on plants in museums was concluded and distributed internally. All areas within MUŻA and the National Museum of Natural History were set with traps and a report finalised.

A series of 3D scanning was carried out on a number of specimens (mainly Tertiary and Quaternary fossils) at the museum. Moreover, on 28 April, the senior curator and two members of the digitisation team travelled to Palermo to 3D scan the mounted skeletons of the extinct dwarf elephants *Palaeoloxodon*



*falconeri* and *P. mnaidriensis* from the *G. G. Gemmellaro* Museum collections in Palermo. This followed a preliminary test on the mounted skeletons at Għar Dalam which took place in February. The collection of old photographs (1930s to early 1970s) was also digitised, and some will be used in the publication to commemorate the fifty years since the establishment of the museum in 2023.

3D scanning of *P. Falconeri* at the G.G. Gemmellaro Museum in Palermo  
(Photo by John J. Borg)



Other collaborations include the following: two visits were carried out at the Bidnija Olive Grove. In March, a cross-section from one of the broken trunks was cut off by staff from Ambjent Malta to age the tree (dendrochronology). The specimen is to be deposited at the museum once studies are concluded.

Ambjent Malta personnel cross-cut one of the old trees (dead branch) for dendrochronology. (Photo by John J. Borg)

The senior curator regularly attended the ESPLORA NATURA task force meetings and delivered a presentation on the history of the museum to the team members. The ESPLORA team shifted their aim from a full-blown museum to a collaboration between the museum and ESPLORA. A series of images of historical specimens from the entomological collections, namely of the Oriental Hornets and the Maltese Honey Bee, were provided to *Koalizzjoni għall-Ħarsien tan-Naħla Maltija* to assist in raising awareness. Help was also forwarded to Nature Trust Malta by providing text about bats, weasel and rabbit for a publication about Maltese Mammals, due in 2023. The senior curator also served as scientific consultant for a TV programme on Maltese Nature to be aired on TVM next year.

Collaboration on research projects with local and foreign individuals and institutions continued unabated. A morning visit to Filfla was carried out on 4 August to monitor the seabird colonies nesting in the boulder scree. A count of individuals seen of the endemic wall lizard *Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis* was also carried out, both in collaboration with the BirdLife Malta Seabird Team. The annual census of breeding *Puffinus yelkouan* and *Calonectris diomedea* on Lampedusa, in connection with the Pelagic Islands Seabird Project in collaboration with the University of Palermo, took place on 1-5 April. From 6 to 16 November the senior curator visited the Natural History Museum, London and the Francis Crick Institute on a research project studying the four molars found in Maltese caves. The **Malta Molars** project is in collaboration with the Natural History Museum (NHM) London, the University of Malta, the Max Planck Institute of Germany and the University College London. A series of tests, Micro-CT scans and high-resolution photography were carried out on samples from Maltese caves. The first results are expected in 2023. The entire visit was filmed for a documentary.

Dr Leila de Souza, a researcher from the NHM, London who carried out her studies for her PhD thesis on Pleistocene Deer, mostly based on Maltese material, was employed by the Archaeology Dept (University of Malta) to assist in the classification of deer bone material from Għar Tuta (Latmija) and Għar il-Fkieren (Pender Place). Assistance in the identification and availability of museum material for comparison was provided by the senior curator. The latter also facilitated Ms Rochelle Lorraine Xerri

MA student (Archaeology) research on Quaternary micro-mammals collected from Għar Tuta and Għar il-Fkieren respectively, providing insight on identification techniques and making available the Quaternary collections at the museum. Four teams of Biology students (BSc.) carried out mini-projects on the museum collections, as follows: Biometrics and bounciness in the Tun Snail *Tonna Galea*; Biometrics and sexual dimorphism in the skulls of Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea*; Biometrics and sexual dimorphism in the Maltese Weasel *Mustela nivalis*; and feeding habits in birds (examining a diverse variety of species normally present in the Għadira, Simar and Salina Nature Reserves). Dr Benjamin Metzger was given assistance in the colour ringing Blue Rock Thrushes *Monticola solitarius* breeding in the museum and in

Mdina, while a group of Masters students from the University of Durham visited Għar Dalam and the museum on 20-21 September.



Drs Aida Gomez-Robles, Victoria Herridge and Eleanor Scerri in the Micro-CT Scan at the Natural History Museum, London (Photo by John J. Borg)

Curatorial staff authored the following publications:

- Massa, B., Borg, J.J., & Tagliavia, M. Some remarks on *Passer italiae*-like of south Italy, Sicily and Malta. **Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia Research in Ornithology. Milano doi: 10.4081/rio.2022.537.**
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. Occurrences of the Sphingid moth *Hyles livornica* (Esper, 1785) in the Maltese Islands and a note on the January 2021 abnormal migration. **Naturalista Siciliano**, December.
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. *Opogona sacchari* (Bojer, 1856) a new record from the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Tineidae). **SHILAP Revta. lepid.**, December.
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. *Pseudosphronia exustellus* (Zeller, 1847). A new species for the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Gelechiidae). **SHILAP Rev. Lepid.** 50: (199): 575-76.
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. Note on the presence of *Ephestia woodiella* Richards & Thomson, 1932 in the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae: Phycitinae). **SHILAP Revta. Lepid.** December.
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. *Peoria pectinellum* (Chrétien, 1911), the correct name for *Hypsotropa semiluteella* (Chrétien, 1922) syn. Nov. (Lepidoptera, Pyralidae, Phycitinae)

from Malta. **Naturalista Siciliano** (December).

- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. Note on the presence of *Clavigesta gerti* Larsen, 2010 in the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Tortricidae). **SHILAP** Revta. lepid., 50 (199): 449-51.
- Borg, J.J., Sammut, P., Catania, A. & Seguna, A. *Hyphantria cunea* (Drury, 1773) new for the Maltese Islands (Lepidoptera: Erebidae, Arctiinae, Arctiini). **SHILAP** Revta. lepid., 50. December.

With respect to curatorial staff, in June the senior curator submitted his MSc dissertation on the Impacts and Population Trends on the Scopoli's Shearwater *Calonectris diomedea* in the Maltese Islands, and received Grade A with distinction. In July, Paul Portelli Curator at Għar Dalam, was re-assigned to the Għar Dalam Park project, while curator Stephanie Sammut handed in her resignation.

In the last quarter, the senior curator started mapping and documenting all the remaining deposits within **Għar Dalam**, which will be 3D scanned in 2023. The flora and fauna in the cave are being monitored over the next two years (2022-23). Logging of sightings on all species occurring inside the cave are inputted in a database to compare results with those reported for 1983-84 in a study carried out by the previous curator (Zammit-Maempel, G. 1985, *The Biology and Ecology of Għar Dalam Cave*. *Atti della Societa Toscana di Scienze Naturali Residente in Pisa, Memorie, Processi Verbali, Serie A*. 1985, Vol 92, pp. 351-74).

The fauna present in the gardens and surrounding areas are being monitored on a weekly basis, including bird ringing, to monitor the resident as well as the migrants/wintering birds in the area. Weekly observations of birds were logged. A total of 98 different species were recorded throughout the year. Seven species, namely the Collared Dove, Short-toed Lark, Cetti's Warbler, Zitting Cisticola, Sardinian Warbler, Spanish Sparrow and Tree Sparrow, were recorded breeding in the area. From August to December, a total of thirteen bird-ringing sessions were held with a total of twenty-five birds ringed as follows: Robin x8, Sardinian Warbler x7, Common Chiffchaff x1, Spanish Sparrow x9.

A meeting with Dr Gabrielle Zammit (University of Malta) was held in March to assess the possibility of initiating a research project on the micro-algae growing inside the cave. Unfortunately, the project could not materialise at this point due to lack of students' interest. Another attempt will be made in the coming year. Two small groups of undergrads under the guidance of their tutor Dr Belinda Gambin and the curatorial team, were assigned embellishment projects related to the Għar Dalam park, namely Borg in-Nadur and the valley. Ms Naomi Muir MSc (Earth Systems student) mapped the trees in the valley and surrounding areas.

The **Prehistoric Sites Department** is representing HM in the **CORALLO Project** – Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations, funded through Interreg V-A Italia Malta, and expected to span from December 2021 to May 2023. It aims to introduce interpretation measures and educational facilities to inform visitors on the importance and vulnerability of Natura 2000 ecological sites. Project partners include the University of Malta (Lead Partner), the Environment and Resources Agency, *Agenzia Regionale per la Protezione dell'Ambiente - Sicilia* (ARPA), *Università di Palermo* (UNIPA), *Consorzio Plemmirio* (Syracuse) and *Consorzio di Ricerca per lo Sviluppo di Sistemi Innovativi Agroambientali* (CORISSIA). The project is expected to introduce interpretation facilities with information on Natura 2000 site values at Haġar Qim & Mnajdra, the National Museum of Natural History, the Malta Maritime Museum and Għar Dalam. It will be ongoing until next year, probably extended to September. Members of the department attended the third steering committee meeting

in Lipari in June, where new connections were also made with the director of the Bronze Age site of Capo Graziano in Filicudi and comparisons with the artefacts from the archaeology museum in Lipari were made with the artefacts found in prehistoric sites in Malta. The department also attended the Ocean Literacy Event hosted at San Anton Palace in Attard, and the CORALLO Ocean Literacy Competition award ceremony event at the Malta National Aquarium in July, when the winners were awarded the HM subscription box. The department was in charge of hosting the fourth steering committee meeting in Malta in November. This year, the department procured the implementation plan and flash cards for children in primary schools. Meanwhile, the department has also initiated the procurement procedures for binoculars to be installed at Mnajdra, the restoration of rubble walls in the archaeological park, and internal discussions for the design of a mobile exhibition. Together with the other project partners, members of the department designed an interpretation plan for the HM sites included in the project, to provide the necessary interpretation measures for each site. Proposals for shifts in the project budget are also being drafted for submission to the lead partner to ensure that the expenditure of the allocated budget to HM is maximised.

A preliminary report on the excavations at the **Xaghra Circle** conducted in 2021 was submitted to the SCH together with a proposal for further works. Excavations at the Xaghra Circle resumed in May. During this season, a more detailed excavation methodology was used. Skeletal remains were recorded in more detail, enabling a better understanding of the burial deposits in the area. Post-excavation of all material excavated during this season was concluded, as well as preliminary visual analysis of ceramic material. A preliminary report on the observations made during the excavation was drawn up and will be discussed with the SCH in early 2023, with the aim of resuming studies on the material and defining a way forward for the project during that year.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of the inscription of the megalithic sites of Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien, Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba on the **UNESCO World Heritage List**. Following the change of the logo by the World Heritage Centre, the Prehistoric Sites Department made an official request to have a version of the logo with the words 'Wirt Dinji', to use in publications and interpretation in the Maltese language. This request was accepted. Two members of the curatorial staff participated in an intensive training course on Interpretation Planning for World Heritage Sites, sponsored by the UNESCO Office in Venice. The course consisted of a series of online lectures and preparatory tasks, an in-person training course in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and a follow-up assignment and tutorials. The focus of the course were the four elements of interpretation: turning phenomena into experiences, offering paths to deeper meaning, provoking resonance, and fostering respect for heritage. Participants had the opportunity to explore these themes and apply them to World Heritage sites in their care. During this year, UNESCO also kicked off its Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting for the European Region. A member of the department, who is also the National Focal Point for Periodic Reporting in World Heritage Sites, attended two sessions of preparatory meetings for this cycle. This edition of the Periodic Report is due to be submitted to UNESCO in July 2023.

The department continues to be consulted by the SCH on **planning applications** in the buffer zones or in the vicinity of sites that it manages. The department's database for these applications is being constantly updated where all building applications within the buffer zones of prehistoric sites in both Malta and Gozo are being documented. In addition to requests for consultations, the Department also monitors new applications submitted to the Planning Authority every two weeks. Some planning approvals in past years, against the SCH's advice, are resulting in a precedent for current applications

which would deteriorate the sites' vistas and alienate them from their landscape context even further. The department also supported the SCH in archival and field information related to changes at Tal-Qadi prehistoric site.

The department also participated in the drafting of a Deaccessioning Policy for archaeological material, in collaboration with the National Museum of Archaeology. This will be discussed further internally in 2023. A paper was also published by a member of the Department in the proceedings of the Spatial Train seminar.

Several meetings regarding the conservation and maintenance programme of the megalithic sites were held this year. Curatorial staff and structural engineers identified several areas within **Haġar Qim** where structural solutions need to be found for issues with the stability of the structure. A conservation maintenance programme was then discussed, taking into account both these structural interventions as well as regular conservation maintenance. The conservation maintenance programme is ongoing. Such work includes pointing and repair, supporting unstable megaliths and removal of previous repair with portland cement and replacing with a specially produced mortar mix that had been approved by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples. A format for documentation of interventions was also agreed on with the Conservation Department, so that an adequate record of all interventions is kept. Before and after photos of each intervention were labelled accordingly and uploaded on HM's photo repository. Scaffolding holding up some megaliths at Haġar Qim was assessed by an architect and the clamps forming part of this scaffolding were replaced with new ones. These are being individually tagged to record the intervention.

The collaboration between the Prehistoric Sites Department and the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment continued with continued monitoring and studies on the role of protective shelters in the preservation of the sites. As part of this collaboration, a member of the department also contributed to a paper that has been submitted for review with regards to this project by the University of Malta researchers.

Post-excavation on the material collected from the excavations for the foundations of the protective shelter of the **Tarxien Megalithic Complex** resumed. Ceramic material from SUs 304 and 1106 was cleaned and sorted as part of a team-building activity. Diagnostic sherds were transferred to the National Museum of Archaeology, while the rest of the material was kept in storage at Haġar Qim. In addition, soil samples from the same excavations stored at the National Museum of Archaeology were checked against site notebooks and record sheets and started to be processed as required. This exercise will resume in 2023.

The preliminary report on the activities conducted on site in 2021 at **Borġ in-Nadur Prehistoric Complex** was submitted to the SCH. Proposals were also made, and their approval obtained, for the activities planned for this year. The clearance of accretions continued in a campaign that lasted three weeks. Further finds were discovered during the removal of accretions; these include a cache of worked stone that had been seemingly reburied on-purpose during the original excavation by Margaret Murray in the 1920s. Part of an apse, and the two pillars that were discovered in 2021, were reinstated by conservators in accordance to how they are depicted in the 1920s original excavation photographs. In April, members of the Prehistoric Sites Department together with University of Malta staff gave an on-site lecture on Borġ in-Nadur, the surrounding landscape and its paleoecology to students from the University of Durham. This activity was repeated on a smaller scale in September

with another group of visiting students from the same university.

New interpretation panels are currently being manufactured and will be soon placed on-site. The area of the Neolithic structures which visitors can visit was extended. This was only possible after the archaeological investigations and the clearance of accretions that occurred in 2021-22. Members of the Prehistoric sites department gave a public lecture at the Archaeological Society of Malta titled 'Borg in-Nadur: a 100 years on', in which the finds discovered in the recent archaeological investigations on-site, and the draft management plan were presented. As part of an ongoing collaboration with the University of Florida, department staff aided in the 3D digitisation of the Neolithic part of the complex. While the site had already been digitised previously, this exercise was necessary due to emerging technologies and the site changes brought about by the removal of the accretions and the reinstatements of the works conducted in 2021-22.

Since the 2021 purchase of a large tract of land at Borg in-Nadur extended the area under the management of HM extensively, the need for a management plan for the complex which incorporates the new areas was acutely felt. The draft management plan initiated in 2021 was concluded and submitted for internal review. In this management plan, the proposal for Borg in-Nadur to be transformed into the first experimental archaeology centre on the Maltese island, and consequently fill a lacuna in the Central Mediterranean region was finalised. Preliminary studies on possible area utilisation and rehabilitation of landscapes within the newly acquired land have been conducted by members of the department in collaboration with students from the Institute of Earth Systems of the University of Malta.

Vegetation consisting of alien species started being removed from the newly acquired tracts of land. A campaign to control the spread of invasive species situated at the complex's boundaries is also under way and will be repeated periodically. Water sources for the future regeneration of parts of the landscape were also identified. The two rooms acquired as part of the 2021 purchase were also cleared of miscellaneous material left by the previous owners. These rooms will serve as the lynchpin for future site interventions and activities. The department also continued providing information and feedback with regards to the Ghar Dalam park project as in previous years.

The HM official guidebook to the **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** was launched this year. It is an excellent source of information about the site and its prehistoric users which further improves the visitor experience. Members of the Department continued to provide input to St Martins Institute for 'Relive History' - a project focusing on virtual access to the site. The Institute is continuing its work in developing further the virtual tour of the site and including more interactive capabilities within the tour. On a separate note, as part of the National Archives' MEMORJA project, an outreach programme has been initiated to collect recollections on how the site was used in the past from members of the public. Following internal review, the Management Plan for this World Heritage Site was finalised and will be submitted to UNESCO. It will provide the basis for future interventions and site management issues.

Pest control and environmental monitoring continued as in previous years. Earthworm casts were once again cleared from the Middle Level early and late in the year. Monitoring of biological growth in the Hypogeum was continued. Black alterations observed in 2021 were removed from a pillar in area 15 within the Middle Level, but parts of the pillar showed a re-emergence of this alteration. Alterations were also observed in the Middle Level. Chemical and biological analysis is currently under way, and a plan of action for their eradication is being formulated in collaboration with HM's

Diagnostic Sciences Laboratory and the University of Malta's Institute of Earth Systems.

A design brief highlighting the potential opportunities for further accessibility and management of **Ta' Haġrat** is being developed by the curatorial team. An episode of HM's tv production with its curators, *Treasure to Meet You*, focuses on the main entrance of Ta' Haġrat and the role of the Mgarr community in the management of the site since its discovery. This episode will be aired in 2023. After consultation with the SCH, the megalith that had been toppled over in 2021 at **Skorba** was reinstated to its original position. The works were supervised by members of the curatorial team and conservators. The department submitted information requested for participation in the potential project on Climate Change Impacts on Cultural Heritage, with Skorba as a case study. If accepted, this project will assess and monitor the impacts of climate change on the site.

Work by HM's **Archaeological Field Team** continued with a sustained pace. The **Xrobb I-Għajin Project** continued in earnest. Following the results of the trial trenches carried out in last year's excavation season, the part of the site which had the most potential for surviving archaeological material was identified. Excavation focused on these areas. Topsoil was removed from six grids, each measuring 4m x 4m. This resulted in the exposure of several apses and torba floors, consistent with the megalithic structure recorded by Ashby in 1915. As a result, it is now possible to identify exactly which part of the structure has been exposed, and successfully superimposed our site plans onto those of Ashby. The exposed features were recorded by means of photogrammetry, and photographs using a drone. A condition assessment was also carried out. This will be used to determine which stones can be moved as part of the effort to relocate the surviving structures further inland, before the imminent collapse of the cliff edge on which they are situated. Discussions were held with Nature Trust for the creation of an interpretation area about the prehistoric complex. This will be installed within Nature Trust's new centre in the near future. Several members of staff from various HM departments also volunteered to participate in the excavation work.

Excavations at **Tas-Silġ** were carried out to investigate the prehistoric structure discovered during the 2021 excavation season. This had to be done in several stages. The first intervention involved the stratigraphic excavation of a baulk of deposits and the removal of part of the farmhouse wall, both of which overlay the *cocciopesto* floor. The area was then covered over by a temporary tent made from wooden planks and plastic sheeting. This setup allowed airflow to pass over the flooring while providing a certain amount of protection from the elements. The *cocciopesto* floor was then left to dry in preparation for its removal. Plans were prepared for the removal of the part of the *cocciopesto* floor covering the prehistoric structure. The floor was cut into squares and lifted. The location of each square was recorded providing us with the option of re-instating the *cocciopesto* floor in the future, if so required. Once removed, work could then proceed with the investigation of the prehistoric structure itself. This work is ongoing.

Collaboration on the *Għajn Klieb* project continued between HM, the SCH, and the University of Malta. Work began of the post-excavation processing of the finds, conservation treatments and research; the results of which were presented to the public via an exhibition held at the National Museum of Archaeology entitled 'Meet the Phoenicians of Malta: Death rituals at Għajn Klieb and Għajn Qajjet, Rabat.' HM will continue to collaborate on this project, assisting with further research and post-excavation analysis as needed. The intention is to see this project through to publication and eventually set up a permanent exhibition of the sarcophagus at the visitor centre of St Paul's Catacombs.

As in previous years, members of the team were heavily involved with the excavations carried out at **Xaghra Circle**. A new excavation methodology was designed by the Field Team's osteologist and implemented during this excavation season. This new system aims to accurately record the location of as many bones as possible with the intention of obtaining a better understanding of the burial practices employed on site. The team also assisted with the excavation, surveying, photogrammetry and post-excavation processing of finds.

Apart from above, the team was also involved in the following work, namely:

- Archaeological excavation and survey of a pit at San Pawl Milqi prior to the installation of an electricity pole. A survey was also carried out to assist the architects with lift installation;
- Cleaning, surveying and photogrammetric sessions of trenches at the Grand Master's Palace;
- Monitors at the Malta Maritime Museum and Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.
- Assessment of the exposed skeletal remains at St Augustine's Catacombs and proposed protective measures including rope barriers, Perspex and excavation. Seven tombs were covered with Perspex. Another five were recommended for excavation, for which an application has been filed with the SCH;
- Removed debris which had accumulated from neighbouring properties, from within the quarry of Ta' Bistra Catacombs;
- Creation of a database of the osteological material at the National Museum of Archaeology, and identifying bones with potential for further scientific analysis;
- Continued post-excavation works for past excavations.

Over the course of this year, it was noticed that some of the bones at **St Augustine's Catacombs** were moved from the original place and/or orientation by visitors during last year's open day. As such, some selected hypogea were covered with Perspex to prevent further damage while remaining visible. In addition, the human remains in some of the tombs within the site were left in situ as per instructions of the SCH during the 2015 excavation. After consultation with the SCH, some of the hypogea are to be excavated.

In an attempt to further digitize **St Paul's Catacombs** to become accessible in diverse ways, some artefacts were 3D scanned. The 'Valeria' funerary inscription will also be 3D-printed to allow a tactile interpretation. Collaborations with Maltese foundations for the visually impaired have also highlighted the need for more inclusive types of interpretation where more of the senses are included. To this end, some 'guide dogs allowed' signs were installed on site. With respect to interpretation, the finalisation and installation of the free audio guide is certainly worthy of mention. It includes over two hours of information for both adults and children and adds value to the visitor experience.

In order to achieve the necessary levels and thus minimise conservation issues, orange filters were added to all the lights inside the hypogea. Another sample of the black alteration in some of the tombs was taken to determine if this is a layer of cement applied to protect the plasters or whether it is part of the deterioration process of the original plasters. The result will determine whether the site can expose new decorative details. Humidity levels at the visitor centre have persistently remained of

concern and various alternatives are being considered. Humidity, as well as light, have exacerbated deterioration in some catacombs leading to regular monitoring and the application of biocides.

The joint project on the Ġhajj Klieb and Ġhajj Qajjet tombs continued. The excavation finds were exhibited at the National Museum of Archaeology. Despite their intrinsic differences, the three tombs provide insight into the island's ancient Phoenicians' burial customs. Additionally, stone sarcophagi are incredibly uncommon finds in Maltese archaeology; the most recent discovery was made about 300 years ago.

Although research had started last year in the *okkorrenzi* records of the Rabat Police station, this had to stop since these documents were moved to the National Archives to be catalogued. However, the department is planning to document the correspondences (Public Library Letter Book vol. 1 and 2) between Antonio A. Caruana and the British Military. These archives will further provide the department with further insight into Caruana's discoveries, as well as the collaborative process between authorities.

Part of the long-term vision of **San Pawl Milqi** is to recreate a working life-sized olive production set of equipment. As such, a marble manufacturer was approached to submit a quotation for an olive crusher replica fashioned out of local Lower Coralline Limestone. Together with an olive press replica which is to be procured in due course, these will form an olive pressing installation for didactic purposes on site. Towards this end, expert advice was obtained from the Archaeology and Classics Department of the University of Malta.

A Roman ribbed bead on permanent display at the **Domvs Romana** was damaged as a result of roadworks and was conserved together with three Roman bone hairpins, and returned in June. A restored bowl composed of re-attached pieces in the 'Rhyton' showcase was again in need of restoration as one of its pieces got detached. It was conserved and returned to its showcase in December. In June, the mosaics and sculptures at the Domvs Romana were given their yearly cleaning. Their state of conservation was also examined and a report documenting the cleaning and examination was subsequently drawn up.

The property attached to the Domvs continued to grow this year with the addition of a portion of land (Tenement No 95074) near the old Museum Railway Station, Mdina, granted on lease by the Lands Authority in April. This was specifically required for study since this area had been excavated by Sir Temi Zammit. In fact, this area was one of those where archaeological excavations were commenced as part of the Melite Civitas Romana excavation project.

Works continued on the new display related to the Ta' Ġawhar dough. The showcase will be installed next year, while the four short audio-visuals that will eventually accompany the dough have been concluded. A number of information panels around the external spaces of the Domvs Romana were replaced and updated, while new ones were introduced to indicate the location of the discovery of the site. More importantly, a filmed interview with Lina Cardona (Nanna Lina) was produced for public viewing. Throughout this interview, Lina Cardona highlighted her childhood memories of the role played by the said Domvs Romana (then Museum of Roman Antiquities) during World War II when she resided with her family there and where her father, Anthony Spiteri, was a live-in custodian and guide. Towards this end, a monitor and an accompanying panel were installed in May on the rear side of the reception area.

Three foreign institutions, Intercontinental Archaeology, the University of South Florida, and the University of North Alabama, together with the SCH, joined forces with HM to commence archaeological excavations on selected areas in the immediate precincts of the Domvs Romana and in its wider buffer area as part of the Melite Civitas Romana project. The aim was largely to reassess previous excavations. The excavation exercise was spread over three weeks: from 13 June to 1 July, with a brief interruption of a few days due to Covid-19 outbreak among the participants. During the same period, tours of the excavations were also organised for internal staff. Waste and other excess material (including heaps of stones and soil) resulting from the excavations was cleared away under supervision by curatorial personnel in October. Further to the release of the digital collection of 128 3-D models of archaeological artefacts, Dr Davide Tanasi also handed all the metadata which included models for both artefacts and the whole site of the Domvs Romana.

The revised Management Brief of the Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths has been completed and is awaiting final approval. A monitoring exercise has been commenced whereby the backfill is monitored every year to verify if any weeds are finding their way through. Due to buried archaeological remains, grass cutting was undertaken in November under supervision of conservators and curators.

Activity at Tas-Silġ continued with some exciting prospects. The digital survey and photogrammetry were finalised, providing the baseline for many diverse studies. The excavation of the new prehistoric structure continued with the removal of baulk and an area of *cocciopesto*. The latter was cut in regular, numbered tiles that allow us to put it back in place if so required. The removal of this pavement enabled us to continue excavation of this important structure, which resumed in November and will continue at least till April. Two samples of mortar from the large cistern complex within the site have also been sent for analysis to the Diagnostic Science Laboratory. Results are still being interpreted. The collaboration with the *Missione* will continue in 2023 when HM will participate in a conference being held about the site by the *Missione* and the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*. Changes were made to the grasscutting procedure on site. To avoid closing the beehives in summer, it was decided not to cut the grass in the warm months (May-Sept), so that the bee population on the site is protected from unnecessary heat stress.

This year saw the culmination of the studies on the Bidnija Olive Grove commissioned through the funds obtained from the Melita Foundation. Both remote sensing and carbon dating reports have been returned and will be published in due course. Concurrently, a 10cm thick slice from a dead trunk lying about the site was submitted for further testing by a specialised dendrochronologist. Works on this are ongoing. The excavations planned with the SCH and the University of Malta are currently on hold so that other committed works could be finalised.

During the year under review, work on an overarching management plan for the Roman sites under HM's care has commenced. It covers all sites within their broader contexts and in relation to other sites in their respective buffer areas. Such a report is to provide a holistic framework regarding the maintenance, preservation, and the interpretation of these sites, and suggesting objectives for the sites' role in education, tourism and hospitality. In addition, the management plan attempts to place museum collections in a more holistic context within other HM sites and beyond in Malta and Gozo. The department also continues to communicate and collaborate with the *Missione Italiana* that has taken over the work carried out by the old *Missione* at Ras il-Wardija in the 1960s and 1970s. As planned, the new *Missione* have started to send us data about both old and new projects so that a record could be kept by all parties. Site works this year included an extensive field-walking and

remote sensing surveys as agreed with project director Dr F. Spagnoli.

The site guidebook of **Fort St Angelo** was published. Audioguides were replaced by a mobile app which visitors can download. Planning work is underway to permanently showcase the exhibition 'Behind Closed Doors' (organised in 2019) at Fort St Angelo in collaboration with the SMOM. Further interpretation provision is being planned. Research on the site's history was continued throughout this year. More transcripts of original documents researched at the National Archives UK were procured. Concurrently, the historical maps' inventory of the site comprises a total of 743 maps. The inventory of historical images of the site comprises a total of 1,190. The total number of artefacts in the fort's collection amounted to 449 (an increase of eight items from the previous year).

Interpretation around **Fort St Elmo** was augmented by the re-installation of new audiovisual system in the Cavalier, the installation of historical timeline of the fort in Abercrombie Casemates, the production of an audiovisual on the 26 July 1941 Italian attack on the Grand Harbour to be installed within Abercrombie Bastion (E gun turret), the reconstruction of Harbour Fire Command furniture according to historical plans in preparation for the opening of the same Fire Command, and the replacement of all waypoints around the site. Research on the site's history continued. More transcripts of original documents researched at the National Archives UK were procured. Concurrently, the historical maps' inventory of the site comprises a total of 350 maps, while the inventory of historical images of the site comprises 180 files.

The collection of **Fort Delimara** remained the same for the year under review. No new donations or acquisitions were recorded. Research progressed further. With the help of students enrolled during summer, more historical documents were transcribed for easier use in future. Historical maps and images inventories were set up, containing 53 and 60 files respectively. Three general interpretation panels were installed. Two videos highlighting the history of the site and consolidation work carried within were produced. Several parts of the fort were digitally scanned and mapped, including the 38-ton guns. Between 5 and 9 December, Fort Delimara's underground fabric condition was analysed by students from University College London in order to understand better how the site can be made more accessible to the public without hindering its general condition and to determine what type of artefacts can be showcased within, together with how to mitigate effects of climate change on the site. Their initial findings were presented in December.

With respect to the **archives of the National War Museum**, this year the focus was mostly on outreach to make the public more aware of our archival resources for research. Events held at Fort St Elmo in collaboration with HM's Education Department promoted the archives and attracted donations. Social media have also been actively used for this purpose. A specific feature will be streamed online through HMTV. Documents not usually exhibited to the public were also displayed during the exhibition commemorating the award of the George Cross and Operation Pedestal in September. This year showed that previous work done on the promotion of the archives is paying off since a number of publications, theses and exhibitions citing the National War Museum Archives were published. Copies of these works have been collected and included in our collection.

A 'Behind the Scenes' tour of the archive was organised with the assistance of volunteer David Vassallo. Participants were members of the Friends of Millbank Association and consisted mostly of retired army doctors. Material from the archives relevant to their profession was showcased and discussed. Mr Vassallo has also been promoting the archives by giving talks online. He has been invited by

the management of HQS Wellington, London to give a talk about the *Ohio* on the anniversary of Operation Pedestal, during which he discussed sources which he discovered within the archives while helping to catalogue relevant material.

Assistance to researchers has been provided both through email and in person. The latter include re-enactor groups and individuals searching about a particular topic. The archives have also provided information and images for international media such as the channel 'History Hit' and 'Le Figaro'. Cataloguing has continued, although at a slower pace than previous years, focusing mostly on the Miscellanea section, which has resulted in many exciting finds which have been digitized and warrant further research and studies.

The main highlight of this year was undoubtedly the commencement of the digitization project in collaboration with Maltapost. More than 22,000 images forming part of the National War Museum Association will be professionally digitized. These are being stored onto Fotoware and volunteers from HSBC are inputting the pertinent information to make them more accessible. The actual work is being carried out in Gozo. Visits to inspect work flow have been organized and arrangements for transportation of images and insurance have been made. The digitization is now well underway and till now some 2,500 images have been processed.

Work at the **National Museum of Archaeology** concentrated mostly on the reserve collections. The archaeological collection continued to be sorted, inventoried, digitized, repacked and stored according to site. Metadata is being entered to accompany the 45000+ images of artefacts and photos uploaded to Fotoware. The senior curator also participated as Malta's representative on the EU Commission OMC focus group on the effects of climate change on cultural heritage (2021-22) and led the group which authored the chapter 'Adaptation of Cultural Heritage for Climate Change' in the publication 'Strengthening Cultural Heritage Resilience for Climate Change - Where the European Green Deal meets Cultural Heritage'.

Staff members assisted with the ongoing archaeological investigations at the Grand Master's Palace, particularly the area of the Nymphaeum/Orangerie and the area of the former AG's offices. A limited investigation was carried out of a section of the Inquisitor's Palace 18th-century sewage system, built into the foundations of the Scala Grande. The complex construction plan of the sewer was documented in the process. It was also established that the sewer was backfilled and sealed off in the course of the 19th century. The investigation of a historic oven in the basement of the Auberge d'Aragon was continued with the organisation of the excavation materials collected during the previous year and with the preparation of the relevant technical report. Archival research was also undertaken at the National Library in documents of the 17th and 18th century to collect information relating to research initiatives, including historic use of ceramics including fine porcelain and faience, evolution of cooking spaces and practices in historical buildings, targeted research on the Auberge of Auvergne and of Italy. This information is essential to develop research and exhibition ideas emerging from the collections held at the National Museum of Archaeology, the Inquisitor's Palace as well as in the Gozo Museums. It was also possible to view some medieval archaeological materials held at the *Museo Diocesano* in Gerace, Calabria, which are of direct relevance to those being found in Malta.

The study of various archaeological/historical collections was continued, including inventory work, research, identification and conservation, as follows: maiolica and porcelain from the MUŽA reserve collection, medieval ceramics and glass from Mesquita Square, Mdina (MSQ1998), early modern

materials from Auberge d'Auvergne, Valletta (VLT1965), and an assemblage of 18th-century ceramics recently discovered at the Strickland House development (St Ursula Str, Valletta). Worthy of note is also the publication of the acts of the conference *Storie-di-Ceramiche 8* held at Pisa in June 2021, which includes a paper dedicated to the collection of fine maiolica tableware discovered in Valletta in 1965 at the Auberge d'Auvergne. The principal curator also published a contribution in *Tesserae* dedicated to a maiolica heraldic plate from the Auberge d'Auvergne collection.

Research on the **Grand Master's Palace** was expanded even further to cover the entire complex. In the State Rooms, works revealed the original Paladini chapel 16th-century flooring, consisting of inlaid stone slabs with maiolica, most of which was unfortunately lost during the 17th-century reworking. Its bad state of preservation promoted a six-month long research and restoration campaign to reinstate the 16th-century layout. The del Monte wing also required extensive attention in view of further discoveries. Walls, ceilings and the ground were extensively investigated, revealing an even more complex narrative on the development of the Palace in its early years. The trenching works for the services in the Orangerie and the Upper Courtyard were also a major undertaking which required a complete redesign of the original proposal. During the initial stages of the investigation, works revealed a series of pre-existing trenches, long abandoned but originally utilised for water supplies. The site was documented, and the project has been redesigned and adapted to utilise as much as possible these pre-existing trenches. Investigation works were also carried out on the foundation of the clock tower and in the nymphaeum, revealing more details on the original structures and subsequent interventions which took place over the centuries.

The **Stories of the Auberge of Italy** project was launched in November. The research-based project aims to reassess the development and social history of the Auberge of Italy from a multidisciplinary perspective. The project is a collaboration with the History Department and the Library Information & Archive Sciences Department of the University of Malta, and the Department of Architecture and Design from the *Politecnico di Torino*. The project will proceed in 2023 with a workshop in March and a small exhibition programmed for August. The project is funded by the IPAS+ funds (MCST).

Research linked with the **Gozo Museum** project was ongoing. The senior curator gave a project update presentation to all HM staff during the staff webinar of 10 March. In the first half of the year, the main focus was on the prehistoric collection to be displayed in the proposed 'Clay Column' in Gallery 1. The principal aim of this showcase is to display the stylistic evolution of ceramics from prehistory to modern-day. For the Neolithic and Bronze Age phases, the existent collection of ceramics, currently on display at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, has been enriched with a number of artefacts that have been retrieved from the reserve collections in Gozo and at the National Museum of Archaeology respectively. These objects include decorated sherds and whole/reconstructed recipients. They all have a known provenance from various prehistoric sites in Gozo.

Following the exhibition on the medieval archaeology of Gozo, discussions were held to select significant artefacts which can be displayed at the Gozo Museum. Discussions were also held with the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit in respect of the Maritime Gallery. Proposals for improvement in the display of artefacts from underwater were made and will be put forward to the museum designer. In June, a very large rare lace pattern from a private collection in Gozo was delivered to Bighi and photographed in high resolution, so that HM will be able to print a replica of this pattern. This will eventually be used in the display of the large lace bolster from the *Casa Industriale* of Gozo, for the Gozo Museum. The pattern will be pinned to the large bolster and a sample of lace will be produced on it.

Further research was dedicated to the ethnographic collection proposed for Gallery 5 – ‘Working the Land and Making a Living’. The collection was revisited and small revisions were made. A first draft of the text and captions that will accompany the objects in this gallery has been prepared. A documentary focusing on Gozitan dialects was produced by a Masters student in Film Studies who was assisted by the Gozo curatorial team. Gozitans from different villages and speaking different dialects were interviewed. The final production is planned to be used in the Gozo Museum display.

HM was represented on the evaluation committee of the Gozo Museum fit-out tender. Evaluation took place in January and February. HM’s ICT Department were updated with all the relevant details, and from March onwards they were able to take lead of data, network and ELV-related matters. In May, several discussions were held in view of the administration spaces within the new museum. Landspacing matters and water seepage problems were discussed during summer.

In August, the Ministry for Gozo asked HM to carry out an intense cost-cutting exercise with regards to the Gozo Museum project, because of budget restrictions. Several internal discussions were held to go through the BoQs of both Fit-Out and M&Es tenders and propose cost cutting. Some revisions in the display were also considered. The results of this exercise were presented to the MGOZ in September.

The ex-Exhibitions Hall at the Gozo Area Office is now housing part of the reserve collection, containing mostly artefacts destined for the Gozo Museum. Modular shelving was installed to facilitate the organisation of storage crates and bulky artefacts. All items and storage crates are labelled for easy retrieval. The entire collection of *The Government Gazette* dating to the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and forming part of the Gozo Reference Library was transferred from storage at the Gozo Nature Museum to the library in the Gozo Area Office. All volumes, some of which are in poor condition, were cleaned, checked for pests, catalogued and placed in individual pockets to prevent further damage or infestation.

In October, a very important acquisition was made. This consists of the personal library of Perit Joseph G. Huntingford who designed the Gozo Lyceum and Technical School which will house the Gozo Museum. All books, journals, films, slides and personal belongings are currently stored in plastic crates at the Gozo Area Office. The original bookcases, desk and filing cabinet joined the rest of the collection in December.

The Gozo curatorial team coordinated the photography and transfer of ten portraits of Roman Emperors that were hanging at the Gozo Law Courts and which formed part of the National Collection. Faithful replicas were produced and framed, and these were exchanged with the originals which will now form part of the Palaces collection of artworks. The Digitisation Department supported the Gozo section in the 3D-scanning of a traditional apiary in Victoria, Gozo – the only known surviving rural structure of its kind. The apiary was cleaned of accumulated debris before scanning of the interior could take place. Furthermore, the senior curator offered support to British resident Ric Smith, who carried out a bat survey in the Ċittadella between April and June. The study was based on acoustic readings of different bat species.

On 10 October, the Gozo curatorial team joined staff from the Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department and from the SCH on a visit to Ras il-Wardija punic sanctuary. Dr Federica Spagnoli from the Università di Sapienza in Rome, with whom HM and SCH are collaborating, conducted the visit and gave an update of the studies of the site and its context so far.

Following the issue of a planning permit for the Domestic Huts Project at **Ġgantija** in 2021, research was resumed. This included studying similar projects at various Neolithic sites around Europe, focusing not only on the archaeological background of these initiatives but also on the construction process adopted for the realisation of such projects. A core team was established and met to discuss a way forward. Research on the specific materials to be used for the mudbrick composition is underway. Curators from the Gozo team also visited the Neolithic Houses in Stonehenge, UK, to gain first-hand knowledge of the reconstruction project. Contact was established with Dr Susan Greaney, Senior Properties Historian at English Heritage, who led the Neolithic Houses project in 2014. She assigned Ms Susan Martindale, an English Heritage Volunteer Manager, who led a team of volunteers in the realisation of the same Neolithic Houses, to meet the curators on-site. The discussion focused on (a) the actual construction of the houses, (b) the management and coordination of the upkeep of the houses, and (c) visitor engagement.

The script for the **Ġgantija** audioguide is being revised following recent changes in dating in Maltese prehistory and interpretation. The viewshed of **Ġgantija**, Xagħra Circle and Ta' Kola Windmill was recorded to assist curators in the evaluation of the impact of proposed development in the buffer zones of these sites. The Gozo Curatorial team was also responsible for reviewing a number of planning applications in the buffer zones of the three mentioned sites, as in previous years, while the principal curator responsible for **Ġgantija** participated in a regional course on Interpretative Planning at World Heritage Properties in Europe.

The digitisation exercise of the **Gozo Collections** continued. Focus shifted to the permanent displays at the Gran Castello Historic House and Ta' Kola Windmill, as well as other artefacts returning from conservation treatment and destined for the Gozo Museum. A total of 108 archaeological artefacts, 471 ethnographic items, two natural history specimens and 44 paintings, prints, drawings and rare books were photographed in high resolution. Following editing of images, all photos were uploaded to Fotoware, inputting partial or full metadata for each object. In parallel to this whole exercise, the site inventories are being updated with thumbnail photos, corrected dimensions of each artefact, new catalogue numbers where these were missing, and Object IDs for collections management reference. Each artefact was labelled using the Tylose method: a fully reversible and safe method. The object lists pertaining to the future Gozo Museum were also updated with the new images.

Apart from photography of individual artefacts, general photography of several museums and sites in Gozo took place, including closed sites such as the Marsalforn Fougasse, and 360 degree photography of the Citadel sites. Sunrise and sunset photography was taken at **Ġgantija**. HM now has a depository of professional photography of all sites, for study, marketing and commercial purposes.

Undergraduate archaeology student James Azzopardi, from Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA, carried out an internship between 18 July and 18 August. He focused mostly on washing of pottery forming part of the Gozo archaeological reserve collection. The material consisted of ceramics from a pit excavated in 1978 at Tal-Hamrija, in Xewkija (five crates), material from a trench excavated in 1961 in It-Tokk, Victoria (seven crates) and the basement of the Banca Giuratale (one crate). He also completed hand-drawn sketches of architectural and archaeological features at Xagħra and Citadel sites as part of his training in observation skills.

The reception area at the **Gran Castello Historic House** was redesigned during the first quarter of the year, more befitting a historic house. A number of canvas paintings, most of which were acquired

recently, were hung in several locations around the house, in connection with the narrative of the historic house context. The 'hunting' display dating to the Ex-Folklore Museum set-up was dismantled, with the stuffed birds being transferred to the National Museum of Natural History study collection. Four clay figurines in the ethnographic reserve collection were sent to the Inquisitor's Palace in March. They form part of a larger set which had been transferred to Malta in the past. Two outdated wall-mounted showcases with locks and keys and pressing irons were dismantled. Some of the items will be reintegrated in the new historic house set-up, while the rest went into the reserve collection.

In September, the Gozo curatorial section applied for EU funds under the Interreg Italia-Malta CORALLO project. The current project 'Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations' will be extended to September 2023. HM took this opportunity to tap further funds to be able to cover the Gozo region. The main goal is to create more awareness of Natura 2000 sites in Gozo with special emphasis on the Ċittadella – itself a Natura 2000 site.

Significant artefacts were secured through purchases and donations, all listed in the appendices. Most remarkable for the history of the **Inquisitor's Palace** was the purchase through auction of a 1760 Inquisitorial document on behalf of Inquisitor Angelo Maria Durini with regards to privileges conceded to Baldassare Ciantar. Resources were also invested in Maltese silver, namely a pistol handed serving fork and two dinner knives.

The year also registered a significant number of accessions for the textile collection. Worth mentioning is a mid-19th-century handmade gold-embroidered baptismal set (Obj. no. 73432); a mid-19th-century black Maltese lace triangular shawl donated by Ms Diane Kelly Cook, UK (Obj. no. 73438); a late 19th- to early 20th-century cream colour silk Maltese lace fan (Obj. no. 73435); and an early 20th-century Christening set that belonged to Count and Countess Chapelle donated by Ms Simonide Rancati Chapelle. The 97 textile items from last year's donations were sent to the Textiles Lab, Bighi, in January and were returned in June (Proj. no. HMI6.52.2021). Textile items that were on display at the Folklore Museum in Gozo have been dismantled and returned to the Inquisitor's Palace after having gone through the conservation process at the Textiles Laboratory in Bighi. The Turkish Dress (ETHN/F/1090, 46/PE1) from the *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* collection was returned to Mrs Parnis England on her request. An extensive amount of original print embroidery designs from the Adelaide Cini Institute in Santa Venera were brought by Mr Mario Coleiro. They have already been sorted and listed but will be digitised and catalogued next year.

As to the ethnography and industrial heritage collections, we managed to secure some notable accessions including a donation of a stone mason's Lathe (*torn*) and a collection of corresponding accessories from Carlo Cremona, casting moulds, twelve silver punches, and relevant tools from the jeweller Charles Dimech. Beyond any doubt, the most important accession was a remarkable collection of Carnival documentation, memorabilia and paraphernalia belonging to George Zahra – who has been participating in the last seventy editions of Carnival, fifty of which as an integral part of the national organising committee. This donation includes video tapes, music cassettes, scores, trophies and memorabilia, certificates and 144 official Carnival programmes and pamphlets starting from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This collection is expected to increase and will feature prominently in a temporary exhibition during Carnival 2023.

As from September, the senior curator is no longer shared with the Art Section and has returned to focus mainly on the Ethnography Section. Moreover, the section benefitted from the presence of a full-

time researcher who is working on a temporary exhibition but has in many ways assisted the rest of the team with various projects and events. Consequently, more resources were dedicated to research into the archives. A research plan for the Inquisitor's Palace was drawn and the first results are in hand. To this effect, the section is currently working on twenty-one historic inventories dating from 1701 to 1754. These were previously unknown to us and are very important in establishing detailed patterns of the use and adornment of space and life within the Palace. An important achievement linked to this data is the ongoing research within the national collection and beyond for contemporary researched silver, porcelain and glass artefacts that would complement the refurnishing of an 18th-century credenza with *armoires* for tableware. Significant progress was also registered on the conservation of the first, from a set of three 18th-century *sottospecchi* featuring the coat of arms of Inquisitor Ludovico Gualtieri. Archaeology is the other source of information we bank on for the realisation of this interpretive vision. The ongoing works include the cataloguing and conservation works of deposits which have been recovered from the prison cess-pit and respective courtyard in 1998 and the works carried out in 2002 in a torture chamber, and the adjacent prison cells carried out in 2016-17, and the garden shaft in 2020. To this, one must add the potentially intriguing excavations that have been identified but still need to be tapped once ready from the ongoing cataloguing.

More time and energy were invested in the documentation project started in 2021. Eight interviews were carried out with people who lived through the post-war years during which the Palace was used as an interim-church and convent by the Dominican community. This included among others the late Fr Marius Zerafa, who was brought up in Annunciation Street, was a novice at the Inquisitor's Palace during his Dominican formation and was eventually Director of Museums. Along with research in archives of the Dominican convent in Birgu, these formed the basis of the temporary exhibition *Dumnikani fil-Palazz: home and temple 1942-1960*, commemorating the 80th anniversary from the Order's official request to use the Palace as a temporary church and convent. Other interviews were carried out including one with Anthony Gatt, owner of an industrial flour mill in Burmarrad, and George Zahra chairman of the Carnival organisation committee for the past 51 years. The latter has generously passed on a donation of Carnival memorabilia and will be the subject of another temporary exhibition in 2023. It is in our plans to carry out more interviews with past donors, particularly those linked to industrial heritage donations, and to tackle topics of ethnographic interest.

With regards the National **Textile Collection**, the pandemic months proved very useful to better familiarise and organise the national textile collection which has regained impetus. This was a year of consolidation and reaping of the first fruits, as a physical and detailed inventory reorganisation is currently underway, and accessibility and outreach is in many ways being improved. The section also gained from the volunteering of Master students Julian Chircop and Tamara Burr. The former from the Archives & Records Management worked on the ecclesiastical section of the collection, while the latter from the Art and Art History Department is currently focusing on 19th-century menswear which will also be the focus of her studies.

The updating of the inventory is progressing steadily in phases. The numeric section of the collection, namely inventory, object, and card numbers, has been checked but will be updated next year. Additional information, including thumbnails and conservation reports of each individual item are currently being inputted. Photography is being improved, data is being renamed and files reorganised to facilitate searches and filing both digitally and physically. Parallel to this is the routine checking of garments and the cleaning of the corresponding storage boxes, sorting, and cross-checking with

the inventory. It is in this light that one must also mention the completion of the costumes and textiles library classification in Dewey Decimal, and the significant progress registered in the cataloguing of Maltese lace designs at the National Library, a major task which will spill into 2023.

The curator of textiles has published the following short articles:

- Gatt Annamaria, “Objet de Vertu, The Maltese Fine Lace Fan at Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum” in Airmalta’s in-flight magazine *Bizzilla*, April 2022 - Issue 112, pp. 52-53.
- Gatt Annamaria, Muscat Maria, ‘The web of Maltese Lace’ in *Encore* magazine, Issue 29, pp. 24-25.
- The national textile collection also featured in article on the ‘Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung’ by journalist Ellen Alpsten about her visit to the Maltese Islands.

Not much progress was registered in the **Industrial Heritage** collection, yet some achievements are worth noting. Following last year’s major relocation of the ethnography, vehicle and industrial heritage collection to the stores in Hal Far, upkeep and reorganisation work was undertaken. Most of the printing equipment and collections were relocated and organised. Moreover, the section conducted an interview and had a digital scan of an early 20th-century industrial flour mill in Burmarrad – thus opening a new option to be considered in view of the increasing storage problems inevitably caused by such bulky objects. The entire setup consisted of two rooms and an engine room with E.R & F Turner Ltd (Ipswich) engines from the inter-war period.

The primary focus at the **Malta Maritime Museum** was to increase and heavily invest in the cataloguing of the archival records and museum collections, consolidating metadata of the current inventory, while studying and analysing the collection, especially in view of the EEA digitisation project, which is also being considered as a case study for the implementation of a new collection management system (CMS).

A preliminary exercise was carried out meticulously over most of 2021, in the hope of ascertaining not just the extent of the museum catalogue but also the development of the cataloguing and inventory practices established prior to the opening of the museum in 1992. The lack of a manual of standard practice inevitably led to inconsistencies in the cataloguing practices over the years. With the state of the collection gradually ascertained, work commenced on the inventory, catalogue and documentation plan. Its initial role was to help the curatorial team put into writing the state of the collection in inventory, though it was equally apparent that in the long-term, the same document also needed to assume the role of a standard operating procedure for future object accessions and handling of object metadata. An updated version of the museum inventory number was proposed, together with a more comprehensive draft of standards, controlled vocabulary and terminology for the museum. This document also differs from the previous in that it goes beyond quoting Spectrum 5.0 and considers other good practices advocated by international organisations such as ICOM. When it comes to cataloguing practices specifically, the document also takes into account both museums with a long-standing reputation in the matter, such as The British Museum, and museums comparable to the Malta Maritime Museum in the nature of the collection held, for instance the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich.

Simultaneous to the above, the first museum objects were also catalogued. Numerous objects have

been accessioned, whereas others were already in the museum inventory and merely required an update to the metadata in hand:

1. The Rock Gate cemetery, comprising 116 stone pieces saved from decay and vandalism by the museum in recent years. They were digitised as part of the EEA project, and will be formally accessioned and registered in due course.
2. The collection of artillery is also being catalogued, including eight bronze guns, several of which of local manufacture. Two are also to be 3D-scanned. Work is set to continue on the cataloguing of the rest of the artillery pieces in the collection, which includes a considerable number of iron guns.
3. The formal accessioning of underwater archaeological objects is underway in collaboration with the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. This comprises a sizeable number of food remains, bone objects such as dice, maiolica and pottery and clay artefacts such as tobacco and hashish pipes discovered in Dockyard creek in 2002.
4. An amount of caulking, boat building, sail-making and dockyard tools were catalogued, digitised and researched. The acquisition of a personal Dockyard toolbox in 2021 by an ex-Dockyard employee, which was meticulously catalogued, digitised and thoroughly researched, continued to strengthen this object type's presence in the collection.
5. The large collection of ship models (over 600) at a scale of 1:1250 donated by Col. Robin J. McGorel-Groves in 2001-03, including liners, cargo ships and warships, were researched and reorganised. Liners that had a connection with Malta or the Mediterranean Sea were identified, and metadata compiled. Attention was given to those involved in Operation Pedestal. It was also of interest to identify the maker of these models and compare the collection with that of international museums.
6. The photographic collection is also being accounted for. Several photo albums, collections or individual photos ranging from 1916 to 1946 are being digitised, catalogued and registered in the cataloguing system. A system of continuing the already existing photo catalogue of the museum has been established. This will proceed with the compilation of metadata of each photograph, thus facilitating their use for researchers.

Digitisation this year included: badges, artworks, ship models and models of traditional Maltese boats, navigational instruments, weapons, miniature models, and Roman masonry artefacts. Archival material was also digitised including: early 20th-century photographic collections, rare books, and ephemera. An important donation of photographs and postcards donated by Judge Giovanni Bonello was also completely digitised. All the items digitized by the Malta Study Centre at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library were also catalogued, except for the Carmel Testa Collection, thus consolidating one of the biggest digital projects undertaken by the museum in recent years.

The museum's momentary closure provided the perfect time to analyse and study models that had been kept closed for quite a while in their respective showcases. This was also the ideal time to clean and conserve the models, apart from minor restoration works on some of them. Some 18th- and 19th-century models were moved to a temporary reserve collection at first floor level. However the major effort in this department was dedicated to the process of data-inputting of the model collection into the CMS. This was achieved by studying, photographing and merging data of models within the collection according to a scale system corresponding to international museum standards.

The mixed media model of the Birgu Clock Tower from the Inquisitor's Palace was completely restored. Based on research conducted through old photos and authentic artefacts on display at the Vittoriosa Parish Museum, missing pieces have been added. On the other hand, the *Dgħajsa tal-Latini* project is still in progress. As planned, the boat is still mostly a carcass at present, due to the particular attention given to the keel and the garboard strakes – an arduous job which will most probably take up most of 2023. The carcass itself continued to be soaked in water constantly due to its fragile state. This process is reaping its rewards and the wood is now in a condition to be conserved. New compass wood was also acquired to be used in the restoration process.

At **MUZA**, a new artwork which was put on display is the 'Still-Life with a Boar' by Francesco Noletti acquired in 2021 and hung in the 'Mediterranean: Signs and Tales' gallery. The painting 'Portrait of Alphonse de Miremont - Berrieux, Grand Hospitalier of the Order of St John' by the Studio of Jacob van Loo, was removed from the display and sent to the Grand Master's Palace. It was replaced by 'Leda and the Swan', after Michelangelo. The main staircase of the museum has been embellished with the display of two sculptures; 'Ballerina' by Toni Pace and 'The Jockey' by Ġanni Bonnici.

The museum will be undergoing a total reorganisation of its galleries and displays. It is being given a fixed chronological route. The visit will start from the first floor, continue on the ground floor Modern art galleries, and finish with a new contemporary art space in the corridor next to the current turnstiles. The chronological route will be divided into four periods: Prehistory to Renaissance, Mannerism to Baroque, Rococo to Romanticism, and Modern and Contemporary. Galleries are also being given numbers.

The implementation of this plan has started with the fixed route by erecting three gypsum walls in the first floor. The first two galleries that are being reorganised are 'Island with a View' which has been renamed 'Views of an island', and 'Religion and Ritual' which is now 'Prehistory to Renaissance'. Work on these two galleries is still ongoing. Artworks have been selected and new content written for interpretation panels and captions. A script is being written for these two large monitors; one on the history of the Auberge d'Italie and one on the history of the art collection. Further changes planned are blow-ups in the courtyard featuring art nouveau designs from an album in the collection. The second-floor corridor will have showcases in which to display the maiolica collection.

The office of the curators on the second floor was moved to the previous conference room on the same floor, which was also divided to include an office for the Chairman. The previous office has now become the library, where the bookshelves and books have been set up. The previous library still holds the plan chests and the archives on the upper level. This room is planned to become an extension of the reserve collection with a controlled environment.

The collection of ceramics including vases, plates, cups and saucers etc, was assessed and divided according to type and period. This collection still needs to be catalogued and labelled. The plan chests drawers D1 to D20 which housed old master prints and drawings were reorganised so that the drawings were placed in D1 to D10 and prints in D11 to D20 and arranged in the drawers according to centuries. This was done in part to facilitate the conservation and research related to the digital project on old master drawings funded by the Getty Foundation's Paper Project initiative. A number of plaster sculptures from the School of Art were transferred to the MUZA collection. These still need to be inventoried.

The library, which was previously housed in one of the rooms on the second floor with access from the research area corridors, has been moved to the room which previously housed the office. Discussions and research on the physical attributes of the library, such as book placements, organization of the shelving, etc, has been disseminated but priority is being given to the library classification as this will determine the shelving system. Certain books already have the Library of Congress Classification (LCC). However, we have decided to also include the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) to reflect continuity with other library institutions in Malta. Two volunteers are aiding in the book classifications.

Panel and canvas paintings, works on paper, prints, photographs and furniture on display continued to be monitored monthly for signs of mould attack. Some works of art across the four galleries received basic conservation on-site, while others requiring a more in-depth treatment, were transferred to the conservation labs. Sculptures that required basic cleaning were cleaned on-site. Works that received conservation and restoration treatment or were mounted, framed or unframed at the laboratories have been listed in chapter 2. Curators worked with Michael Formosa, Wood Conservator Restorer, to carry out dendrochronology for the dating of the panel painting 'Head of an Old Man' by the Rembrandt workshop which has been dated c. 1630s. Further research will be carried out to compare results with those of other panel paintings by the Rembrandt workshop. Curators worked with the Digital Science Laboratories and Paintings Conservators to study the painting 'Head of an Old Man' by the Rembrandt workshop before and after conservation, to gather technical scientific images and data of the painting to assist with analysis of the work.

Following the installation of two large permanent dehumidifiers, one in the Camerone and one in the Preti Hall above it in late 2021, monitoring of the Relative Humidity (RH) and Temperature in these rooms was conducted throughout the year. Due to the unstable temperature, the contractor who installed the ACs were asked to implement an algorithm that would regulate the ACs so the temperature will always be kept stable at 20-24°C. This was implemented throughout the museum. Following this, the two large dehumidifiers were supposed to be able to regulate RH at acceptable levels of 50-60%. However, fluctuations were still observed in parallel with seasonal weather changes. The dehumidifiers experienced malfunctions in the form of ice formation and were seen to. It was suggested that these large dehumidifiers were not keeping up with the large body of air in the Camerone and Preti Hall because they were connected vertically at one end of the hall. A solution could be to divide these two spaces, possibly using the moveable partition. It is intended to find a slot of a few weeks in 2023 when there are no exhibitions, so that the Camerone partition can be closed and testing done to assess whether the two large dehumidifiers manage to keep up with humidity fluctuations and maintain RH within an acceptable range. The results of this testing will give us the necessary data to discuss a way forward for the establishment of a constant RH and Temperature within the whole museum. It has also been observed that the algorithm to control temperature has at times malfunctioned, resulting in high temperatures. This is probably due to an unstable network and is being tackled.

The large main glass door on the first floor leading to the gallery 'Views of an island' was assessed for gaps and these were sealed where possible. The same was done for glass doors that lead to the ground floor galleries from the corridors around the courtyard. Sealing these doors reduces the fluctuations in air flow into the galleries which bring with them fluctuations in RH and Temperature. It was noted that since the air vents were closed in 2021, there is no supply of fresh air in the first floor and second floor of the museum. This could result in particles and spores remaining in the air.

To be monitored in 2023. The small dehumidifiers in the Camerone were removed and those in the Preti Hall were switched off since the large ones were installed. The rest of the small dehumidifiers were left in the museum galleries, being switched off only for a couple of months in the year during favourable weather conditions. Works were carried out on the roof rainwater management system so that water is not diverted into the terraces. A higher sill was created in front of the sliding doors of the two terraces on the second floor to prevent rising levels of water from entering the building.

Monitoring of the contents of the plan chests for works on paper with mould infestation continued, and infected artworks were put in the reserve collection with those found the year before. Some of these infected artworks were transferred from the reserve collection to the paper conservation lab for treatment. An area on the second floor, next to the goods lift, was designated to become a controlled environment in which to dry artworks on paper to try to mitigate the spreading of mould. The room was enlarged with gypsum and ACs, while a dehumidifier and air purifier were installed. Metal mesh shelves were acquired. The drying process will start in 2023.

Digitisation of newly acquired artworks continued throughout the year. Numerous requests for images or reproduction from internal and external parties resulted in many artworks being digitised. Digitising the collection consisted of updating metadata on Fotoware, updating of inventory cards, taking necessary images of artworks in the National Collection and updating existing metadata, updating of MUŻA artwork database and HM artwork databases, and updating of artist dossiers and area holding physical documents. Social media posts dedicated to works from the MUŻA collection as well as events held at MUŻA were prepared on a monthly basis throughout the entire year. Efforts were made to focus on intriguing details and curiosities, and individual works from the National Collection, while also, where relevant, linking them with specific artists' anniversaries, current affairs and national days, locally and overseas.

Research also continued on Giorgio Grognet de Vasse' (through contact with Prof. Ingrid D. Rowland, Professor of History and Architecture, Italy), the Portolan (through contact with Michael Ferrar), and research on peripheries and borders using cartography and seascapes for A. Celeste and J. Buch. Provenance research continues. This is being reflected in the captions of the new galleries which will include provenance details of the artworks. This involves going through the Museum Annual Reports and other sources. For instance, it was discovered that 'Sophonisba' by Filippo Gherardo and Giovanni Coli was bequeathed by Fr Mario Bichi to his friend, Ramon Perellos before he became Grand Master.

Apart from continuing the implementation of the 2020 - 23 Exhibition and Residency Programme, special attention was given to **maltabiennale.art** (baħar abjad imsagar taż-żebbuġ/white sea olive groves). MUŻA, on behalf of HM and Arts Council Malta, the main organizing bodies, with full cooperation of the Ministry for Foreign and European Affairs and Trade along with the Malta Tourism Authority, launched a call for artists and art pavilions to form part of the first Malta Art Biennale titled *maltabiennale.art*. Taking place between March and May 2024, the biennale will coincide with the turn of spring, a glorious time of year that sees the Mediterranean island bloom with warm weather and extended hours of daylight. A number of HM sites, including MUŻA, will be the hosts of the artists/pavilions in this first biennale. This call is intended for both Maltese and foreign artists, curators, curatorial teams, project managers, etc, wishing to present projects in accordance with the theme of this year's Biennale. This call is also open to interested pavilions applying from any country or region, while the curatorial teams may be composed of a mixture of curators, architects, designers, project managers and curatorial assistants. Interested applicants may submit their proposal by 24 March 2023.

### Learning about Old Master Drawings through the Malta National Art Collection - Getty Project.

In May, HM received the news that the digital project 'Learning about Old Master Drawings through the Malta National Art Collection' will be funded by the Getty Foundation's 'The Paper Project' initiative, which the museum applied for in 2021. The award amounts to €87,000. The project will result in the development of a microsite as part of the MUŻA website which will contain educational material on old master drawings using the artworks in our collection. The microsite will feature the catalogued drawings within the new Collections Management System adopted by HM. The project will focus on subject matter, provenance, materials and techniques, schools and periods and function of drawings. Research commenced with the populating of metadata in an excel sheet. This led to some reattributions, understanding of subject matter, contextualisation and determining provenance of some of the drawings. Research and content creation will continue in 2023 with the hiring of a Research Assistant through this project. In this connection, Martin Royaltón Kisch and Filip Moerman viewed drawings by Italian artists and attributed to Italian Schools dating to the 17th and 18th centuries from the Drawings and Prints Collection at MUŻA.

### Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit

Following all the required documentation, two new sites were opened in 2022: the British submarine HMS *Urge* and a Supermarine Spitfire, both Second World War remains. Both sites were also launched on the virtual museum Underwater Malta – ensuring that all members of the public can explore the aircraft, not just the diving community.



HMS *Urge*



Supermarine Spitfire

Underwater sites sustained their popularity, with the most visited as follows:

| Site                  | No. of Divers |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| B24 Liberator         | 127           |
| HMS <i>Olympus</i>    | 43            |
| HMS <i>Russell</i>    | 24            |
| HMS <i>Urge</i>       | 6             |
| JU88                  | 146           |
| JU88 - south          | 17            |
| L72                   | 94            |
| Luciston              | 11            |
| Maryland Bomber       | 11            |
| HMS <i>Nasturtium</i> | 325           |
| Polynesian            | 795           |
| Schnellboot           | 161           |
| Skyraider             | 5             |
| Southwold bow         | 313           |
| Southwold stern       | 224           |
| Spitfire              | 10            |
| Swordfish             | 23            |
| Trusty Star           | 45            |

The close relationship with the various dive schools was confirmed.

| Dive School                | Number of Divers |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| Atlantis Diving Centre     | 59               |
| Dive Systems W.S. Ltd      | 534              |
| Dive on Malta              | 86               |
| DiveWise                   | 262              |
| Maltaqua                   | 412              |
| Orange Shark Diving Centre | 11               |
| Ritual Dive                | 4                |
| Seashell Dive Centre       | 5                |
| Starfish Diving School     | 2                |
| Technical Diving Malta Ltd | 40               |
| Underwater Enterprises Ltd | 57               |
| WaterWorld Malta           | 43               |

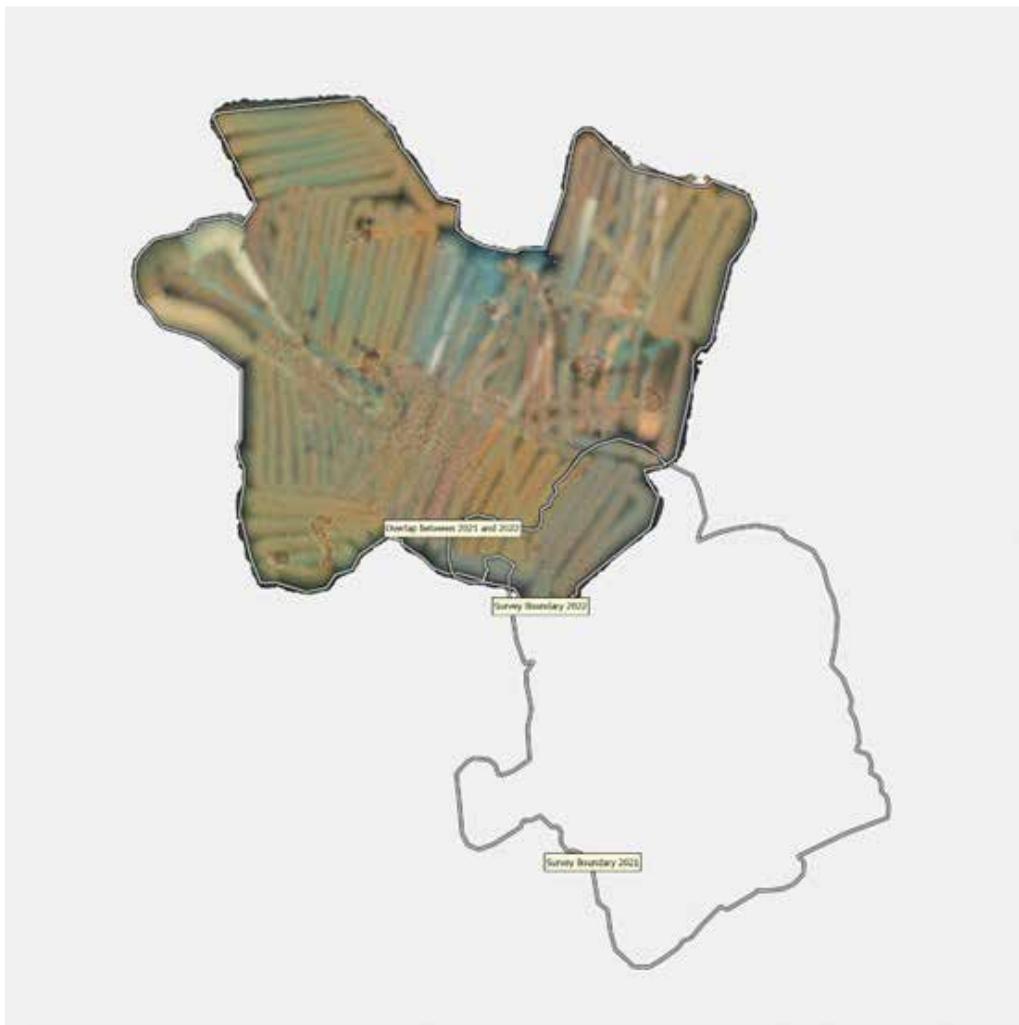
Diver nationalities were distributed as follows:

| <b>Nationality</b> | <b>No of Divers</b> |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Austria            | 4                   |
| Belgium            | 29                  |
| Brazil             | 6                   |
| Czech Republic     | 55                  |
| Denmark            | 54                  |
| France             | 72                  |
| Germany            | 35                  |
| Great Britain      | 4                   |
| Greece             | 14                  |
| Hungary            | 29                  |
| Ireland            | 42                  |
| Israel             | 14                  |
| Italy              | 13                  |
| Malta              | 685                 |
| Netherlands        | 4                   |
| Norway             | 1                   |
| Poland             | 46                  |
| Portugal           | 11                  |
| Russian Federation | 2                   |
| Slovak Republic    | 5                   |
| South Africa       | 1                   |
| Spain              | 1                   |
| Sweden             | 63                  |
| Switzerland        | 6                   |
| United Kingdom     | 215                 |
| United States      | 19                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>1430</b>         |

Three more sites were added to the virtual museum Underwater Malta platform - [www.underwatermalta.org](http://www.underwatermalta.org): (1) HMS *Urge*, (2) Supermarine Spitfire and (3) HMS *Nasturtium*. Documentation and the necessary preparations for the launch of future sites was carried out throughout the diving season. The total number of visitors to the virtual museum this year was more than 12,000, with the top visiting countries being the UK (23.02%), Malta (21.3%), and the US (16.41%). Average monthly visitors range between 800 and 1,000.

Regular patrols were carried out at sea at HM underwater sites to ensure that no illegal diving or fishing activities are taking place, and that permitted dives complying with terms and conditions. The Fisheries Department was included in the list of stakeholders that are informed when diving operations are being carried out. Fisheries personnel have also carried patrols on HM's underwater sites in the capacity of their own patrols at sea.

The second season of fieldwork on the Xlendi Tower Wreck Project took place in June/July to continue with the documentation of the site. A total of 6,432m<sup>2</sup> were surveyed, of which 608m<sup>2</sup> are overlapped with data capture in 2021. A public talk on the project was delivered by Prof. Timmy Gambin to members of Wirt Ghawdex. The Xlendi reef was surveyed for archaeological potential and the installation of the CCTV system is nearing completion. Panels for the public display at the Xlendi Tower were finalised and are awaiting final measurements. The Malta International Airport Foundation sponsorship for the launch of the Xlendi deep-water archaeological park was officially announced.



Area surveyed in 2022 in relation to the area covered in 2021



Xlendi reef survey

A major weeklong series of events was organised in April for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of **HMS Urge** – a WWII British submarine. An international team of divers travelled to Malta to participate in diving operations on the site that included the placement of a memorial plaque in the conning tower, the unfurling a Royal Navy ensign, the capturing of video footage and the placement of a metal grid. Officers from the Royal Navy Submarine service, including Commanding Officer Jim Perks, travelled to Malta to partake in the events. Over twenty relatives of those who lost their lives on HMS *Urge* also travelled to Malta, including the daughter and grandson of the commanding officer of HMS *Urge*, Lieutenant Thomkinson. Related activities included a talk at the Archaeology centre for the Royal Navy and relatives on the discovery of HMS *Urge*, a reception at the residence of the British High Commissioner that included a Dive into History 360 experience, and a wreath laying ceremony at sea over the wreck site of HMS *Urge*. This included an AFM patrol boat and several smaller vessels carrying Royal Navy personnel, the British High Commissioner, and relatives to the wreck site for a poignant wreath-laying ceremony, that took place while divers were on the site. Upon entering the Grand Harbour, a gun salute from Upper Barraka Gardens was organised as a sign of respect for fallen servicemen. Finally, the unveiling of a monument at Fort St Elmo took place on 27 April in the presence of HE the President of Malta Dr George Vella, the British High Commissioner, the Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Councils, and the Commander of the Armed Forces of Malta. An honour guard consisting of soldiers from the AFM and Royal Naval officers, the full AFM band and

a gun salute was also organised. Following the unveiling ceremony, a reception was organised in Piazza d'Armi.



Dive into history 360 event at the residence of the British High Commissioner



Wreath-laying ceremony at sea over the wreck site of HMS *Urge*, with the support of the AFM



HMS *Urge* monument at Fort St Elmo

A single day event was also organised in collaboration with the Polish Embassy in Malta and the University of Malta to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of ORP *Kujawiak*. It included a wreath-laying ceremony at sea over the wreck site of the ORP *Kujawiak*, and 360 experience of the wreck site.

The 'Under the Med II' conference was held at the Valletta Campus of the University of Malta in November, in collaboration with the University of Malta and Honor Frost Foundation. Over two hundred participants travelled to Malta to take part in the conference. An exhibition on Honor Frost and her connection to Malta was launched at the National Museum of Archaeology for the occasion.

A ghost gear removal project was initiated in late 2020 with the intention to clear HM underwater sites from ghost nets that are entangled on the wrecks, endangering marine life and divers. The nets collected from this initiative were sent to the Germany NGO Bracenet for upcycling. Keychains and bracelets were created and sold with the intention of generating awareness on the scale of problem of ghost gear. A second set of merchandise t-shirts were also designed and produced.

The UCHU spring project saw over twenty technical divers travel to Malta to participate in various technical dives for 3D documentation as part of the valorisation of underwater cultural heritage sites and to produce material for outreach purposes. The Unit's personnel also participated in the University of Malta's Salina Bay underwater excavation which is conducted as training for students of the MA in Global Maritime Archaeology. Two portholes were recovered from an unidentified shipwreck. The NGO Žibel recovered ceramic material during an underwater clean-up in Marsaxlokk and a bronze hand during a clean-up in Ta' Xbiex Marina.

The Dive into History 360 project, a collaboration between the UCHU and the Digitisation department, originally intended to hold 360 events at schools and local councils in Gozo as a pilot exercise. However, these plans had to be cancelled in January due to the COVID situation. Nevertheless, several 360 events were held throughout the year for the Malta Archaeological Society, the Classics and Archaeology Student Association, Science in the City, at the Baltictech conference in Poland, for the 'Under the Mediterranean II' conference and for the commemorations of OPR *Kujawiak* and HMS *Urge*.

With respect to conferences abroad, UCHU personnel participated in the EAA funded workshop on underwater cultural heritage and marine plastic pollution, organised by the University of Malta and the Norwegian University of Technology and Science. Two workshops were held, the first in Malta in May, and the second in Trondheim, Norway, in September. UCHU staff also attended the 'Conservation and Restoration of Underwater Archaeological Finds' provided by the International Centre for Underwater Archaeology, Zadar' held between 1 April to 20 May. Prof. Timmy Gambin was an invited speaker to the Baltictech Technical Diving conference 25-27 November, Gdynia, Poland, during which he focused on presenting the search for and discovery of HMS *Urge*. He also participated in an international conference on Phoenician and Punic Studies at Ibiza, presenting the preliminary results of the Xlendi Tower Wreck Project.

A number of artefacts recovered from the seabed, were transferred to the **National War Museum** following conservation. These included a Bulpitt and Starboard lantern and a Station pointer recovered from the HMS *Nasturtium* wreck; a 50-calibre machine gun and a bullet recovered from the Liberator bomber wreck; a Vickers K machine gun recovered from the Swordfish wreck; and the HMS *Oakley* bell recovered from the ORP *Kujawiak* Polish wreck. The uniform jacket of the aircraft technician Herb Tollefson was also conserved.

A barrack room of the 1940s started being mounted in one of the parade ground rooms. Artefacts from the reserve collection or reconstruction of similar furniture are found in such rooms. These included two small wardrobes, two different military beds, a desk, typewriter, chairs, enamel utensils, web equipment and personal kit, reconstruction of a large foldable table, and other small items. The barrack room will be opened for visitors next year.

Research continued in several archives, mostly at the National Archives, the Public Works Department, the Police HQ, the Vittoriosa Dominican Convent, the Notarial Archives, and the *Banca Giuratale*. The curator published several articles on various subjects, including 'Defending St Paul's Bay from a World War II invasion', 'Glorious 10th of May, 1942: the Battle of Malta day', 'Two convoy attempts to supply beleaguered Malta in June 1942', 'How Malta greeted the Santa Marija convoy heroes' and 'Infringing Hospitaller Malta's Neutrality: The pretensions of Augustus Hervey in Maltese territorial waters'. Another article on The Glorious Tenth of May was published on the international aviation magazine *Flypast* about the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the turning point in the air war over Malta. All preparations for the publication of the guidebook on the museum were concluded. The publication is due to be ready early next year.

The Malta Aviation Museum continued working on their project to rebuild a replica of the Gloster Sea Gladiator N5519 CHARITY by taking measurements and dimensions of the fuselage of the NWM Gloster Sea Gladiator FAITH. A painting of the three Sea Gladiators at Hal Far was donated to the museum by the Aviation Museum. The original George Cross medal was exhibited at the British High Commission's residence at San Pawl tat-Tarġa during a function dedicated to the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the George Cross. For the same occasion, the museum was also visited by Lord Ashcroft, who has the largest collection of medals in the world, and who wanted to see by himself the original medal.

The curator also met the Polish historian Pawel Roszak Kwatek and discussed the ORP *Kujawiak* ship's bell Polish naval units' connection with Malta, at the request of the Polish Embassy in Malta. He was also interviewed by Jo Jakobsen, professor in political science at Norwegian University of Science and Technology, on how technology helped Malta during WWII. Various other interviews on several war-related themes were also provided to local and foreign television stations.

Further removal of parts of the corridor floors at the **Grand Master's Palace** had to be carried out to install the new infrastructure systems such as security and sensor cables. The marble was numbered against a plan and re-laid accordingly after cleaning and restoration as necessary. After the mapping and numbering of each marble component, the floor of the short corridor was taken out, cleaned, repaired and laid back.

The limestone/blue maiolica flooring of the main chapel was taken out to install electrical and other cables. This flooring was found laid in a haphazard way, not forming a pattern and at a lower level. This was because above it, a new early 18th-century maiolica floor was laid. The opportunity was taken to re-lay this flooring following the correct pattern at the same low level. All of the missing blue maiolica tiles were infilled with blue based mortar. Eventually, the 18th-century maiolica floor will be reinstated, leaving a central part exposed where the missing coat of arms of the 18th-century floor is to be laid.

Several accretions in *Casa Eusthacio del Monte*, such as blocked doors and windows, were removed. The walls were exposed to bare stone and the wooden coffered ceiling dating to the late 1560s

was restored using iron bars and resins. Restoration work on the original façade which was defaced by the now demolished two-storey accretion onto Prince Alfred's Courtyard was concluded. Several reconstruction work, mainly moldings and pilasters, were carried out at the Orangerie. Restoration works on the façade was also commenced including the clock part. The restoration of several doors and windows was continued with an emphasis on those overlooking Archbishop Street. Some of these apertures in mahogany were painted over on both sides and thus the decision was taken to have the inner sides back in polished mahogany. Other apertures, namely those of the President's Offices and tapestry room were also commenced.

By the end of the year, the Pages and Ambassadors' rooms were installed with ACs and dehumidifiers. The mahogany paneling of the balcony doors was modified for this purpose. Some marble flooring had to be taken out after due mapping, numbered against the plans, cleaned and re-laid after some additional works, mostly related to the dehumidifiers. The existing mahogany skirting was deemed not appropriate to be re-installed. A new mahogany skirting was designed and installed in the Pages and Ambassadors' rooms by end December.

The proposed Papal visit finally took place on 2 April. Pope Francis was welcomed to the Palace by HE the President of Malta. The Palace was spruced up as much as possible and the corridors, Tapestry, Throne, Pages and Ambassadors' rooms embellished with paintings, furniture and object d'art. The *Uccelliera* was used on two occasions by the President of Malta. Portraits of the incumbent and previous Presidents were installed here, which is being referred to as the Republic Hall. The setting up and dismantling of the above-mentioned rooms took a lot of time. In order to accommodate this state visit, other events, Republic Day on 13 December and the Greetings to the President, these rooms were fully refurbished and then dismantled again, so that restoration and infrastructure works could be continued.

Several stretches of the marble flooring were taken out from the Office of the President so that the beams and roofing structures underneath could be repaired and services installed. It was decided to leave as is the painted decoration of the previously lost chapel of the winter quarters, since the available technology is not sufficient to expose the painted decorations without inflicting damage. The walls will be clad with false walls to preserve said decorations. Attempts to install all nineteen lunette paintings depicting the salient Order of St John Naval engagements against Ottoman and Barbary Coast naval units, dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> century were made. Eleven were placed in their location last year, but the remainder still required further restoration. Seven were installed, with the last one to be installed next year. The Perez d'Aleccio paintings documentation by the UoM is still ongoing albeit nearing completion.

A good number of transfers were made from MUŻA, Bigħi, various ministries and San Anton Palace. Some items were purchased, notably two pairs of French bronze Louis XV appliques for the corridors which thus have curtailed all requirements for said corridors with a spare pair. A set of three early 17<sup>th</sup>-century oil on canvas paintings were purchased from an antiques dealer in Holland. They represent Blessed Master Gerard, Master du Puy and St Ubaldesca. All three are considered founders of the Order of St John, be them the male and female branches. The first two depict the sitters in period armour with battle scenes. All were set up in the Armoury Hall. Twelve full length and smaller portrait paintings were transferred from Bigħi and are now embellishing the armoury. Visits continued to MUŻA to examine and select suitable antique porcelain and glass items previously at the Palace. Similar visits were made to the National Museum of Archaeology.

Six 18th-century tent and bag chandeliers were transferred from San Anton Palace to the Grand Master's Palace. These chandeliers were taken for restoration and four Maria Theresa Chandeliers, formerly at the Palace were installed in their stead. Two Maria Theresa style chandeliers remain to be sourced for San Anton. Yet again, as a consequence of the current works at the Grand Master's Palace, few if any initiatives could be taken at **San Anton & Verdala Palaces**. Since July 2019, the President's Office had to be accommodated at San Anton Palace and thus no projects of significance could be tackled. Likewise, at Verdala Palace the only works that could be carried out were the transfer and replacement of paintings.

Most of the items in the old **Palace Armoury** display were dismantled and carried upstairs, while the remaining heavy items including the bronze cannon and carriages, cannon balls, mannequins and Evans showcases were lifted to the first floor from Merchants Street's door using a crane and lifter into the main balcony. The items that remained in the old halls were the five bronze guns, the Grand Master's carriage and the Stasia and bronze bell, since they are intended for display in the same location in the future.

Considerable research and writing for the panels in the display, and the sourcing of accompanying images, has been completed, including digitisation and filming for audio visual displays. Information was also provided for the manufacture of wooden carriages for cannon, for six new chandeliers, and for iron elements for six falconet carriages that are being prepared for the new display. Thirty-two small display stands for small armour pieces and twelve full body armour suits stands are being manufactured in mahogany. A large number of stands for helmets and other single pieces are also being manufactured. Preparations are in hand for the publication of a project book, a children's story and activity book, and various merchandise for the museum shop.

Following the restoration of the painted walls of the Armoury, the walls were decorated with portrait paintings of Grand Masters and Knights of the Order of St John wearing or featuring armour, and later with newly-created trophies of arms and singular pieces of armour to form armorial panoplies similar to what was displayed pre-1969. Projections of the Zygulski and Czerwinski photos were displayed on each panel and similar pieces of armour were hung on the stainless-steel hooks. All the pieces had been superficially cleaned using Balistol oil and microcrystalline wax as necessary and prepared for hanging by installing wire loops around existing holes. As part of the new wall display, a large number of fibreglass replicas of infantry half suits of armour are being manufactured to be hung on the frieze around the Armoury hall. In the meantime, all the corridor and armoury mannequins are being repaired and painted in a uniform matt-black colour in preparation for display. Moreover, most of the showcases of the Evans type and the Victorian showcases were restored and installed with new upholstery similar in colour to the one used in the previous display. The lighting was also almost completed except for the newly constructed showcases.

Pieces from the Japanese Armour suits were identified and sorted in preparation for transportation to Japan for conservation, following various discussions with the Ambassador for Malta to Japan. In September, the pieces were packed and ready to leave to Japan as diplomatic cargo. However on delivery to the airport, the boxes were deemed too large by the airline and thus were left aground and were returned to the Armoury. It is planned that they will be leaving in 2023 on the next visit to Malta by the Ambassador, packed in smaller boxes.

Between 22 and 26 August, the curator attended the triennial conference organised by ICOM, the international organization for museums "The Power of Museums" in Prague and the ICOMAM (International Committee Of Museums of Arms and Militaria) conference to represent the Palace Armoury.

In view of the preparations for the new display, various pieces of decorated armour have been conserved, namely the siege armour collection. Three cartridge powder cases are being completed together, with a fully detailed replica of one of them for better interpretation of how they would have looked like.

The cataloguing and inventory of several small and medium-sized falconet iron cannon balls has been completed, and assistance given to Ms Laura Zerafa from the University of Malta's Engineering Department, to carry out studies of the material composition of armour based on micro-sampling from fragments of armour and non-destructive testing on the various cavalry suits of armour from the collection. This is being done in collaboration with the HM's DSL.



EXHIBITIONS &  
EVENTS

## Exhibitions

### The Phoenician Shipwreck

This exhibition about the Phoenician shipwreck located off Xlendi enabled visitors to experience the work behind the first-ever excavation by scientific divers beyond 100 metres. The exhibition, previously held at the Citadel in Gozo and at the National Aquarium, was now hosted at the National Museum of Archaeology from 3 May to 13 June. It focused on the innovative techniques used to scientifically excavate a deep-water site, while showcasing artefacts recovered from the wreck. Some of the objects on display were unknown in Malta's archaeological record. Audio-visual presentations helped transport visitors to the seabed outside Xlendi Bay.

### Maltapot: The journey of the humble sherd

Held at the National Museum of Archaeology from 20 June to 21 August, the exhibition presented the results of a scientific investigation of materials and techniques used in pottery-making in prehistory in order to shed light on the networks and transfer of techniques between the Maltese Islands and overseas. The research was carried out by the Department of Classics and Archaeology at the University of Malta, with the support of the National Museum of Archaeology and the EU's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Grant Agreement.

### Għajn Klieb Sarcophagus: Meet the Phoenicians of Malta

A Phoenician stone sarcophagus excavated last year at Għajn Klieb, on the outskirts of Rabat, was one of the major attractions at an exhibition which was inaugurated at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta on 29 August and remained on display until 30 October. The exhibition brought to light the results of months of painstaking studies by a multidisciplinary team researching the sarcophagus and two other tombs discovered in the area, as well as their contents. The three tombs, although inherently different, shed light on the burial rituals of the earliest Phoenicians on the island.

### Honor Frost's Malta: A pioneer in the centre of the Mediterranean

An exhibition highlighting underwater archaeologist Honor Frost's connection to Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology, from 2 November to 15 January 2023. Besides honouring Frost's considerable legacy, the exhibition aims to offer a snapshot of Frost's work in Malta through illustrations, artefacts and even some of her diving equipment. Frost was a pioneer of underwater archaeology and among the first to combine the discipline of archaeology with diving. Her connection with Malta began in 1967, when she travelled to the island to map and excavate a 3rd century AD Roman shipwreck located in Mellieħa Bay. From a local perspective, this excavation marks the beginning of scientific underwater excavation and publication in Malta.

### Medieval Gozo Exhibition

The exhibition '*An Island in Transition 700 to 1700 AD. The Archaeology of Medieval Gozo*' remained open at the National Museum of Archaeology till the end of February. This was the second event in the 'Medieval Malta Exhibition Series'. In this case the objective was to provide an overview of the medieval heritage of Gozo from an archaeological perspective, the result of a cooperation with Gozo Museums section of HM, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the Sannat Local Council. The

exhibition was reopened in the exhibition hall of the Gozo Ministry at St Francis Square in Victoria, between 5 and 31 October. For the new venue, the display was improved with the updating of some of the exhibits and didactic materials. A lecture on the same topic was delivered by the principal curator on 27 October at the Gozo Ministry, during which further information on main themes dealt with in this exhibition were provided.

### WWII: Shelter, Famine, Resistance

This audio-visual experience, fruit of the cooperation between HM and the Cultural Diplomacy Fund of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, includes actual World War II footage but also comprises actors role-playing people who lived through the war. It featured as an added attraction for visitors to Underground Valletta throughout November and December. The project was meant to be a temporary exhibition but has eventually consolidated itself as a permanent experience.

### *Dumnikani fil-Palazz: Home and Temple 1942-1960*

This initiative was held at the Inquisitor's Palace in collaboration with the Dominican Convent of Birgu and the Kottonera Foundation from 23 August to 8 January 2023, commemorating the 80th anniversary from the Order's official request to use the Palace as a temporary church and convent.

Moreover, following the first call for exhibition proposals, the following exhibitions were also held at MUŻA: 'Endless thinking' by Noel Attard (1 April – 8 May); 'Connections' by Alfred Camilleri (17 June – 24 July), 'Perpetual motion' by Cyril Sancereau (1 July – 7 August), and 'Bellum in mundum' by Tonio Mallia (12 August – 11 September). Furthermore, picking up from last year's exhibition on Giorgio Preca, MUŻA also organised two exhibitions, including two public lectures, commemorating the one hundred years from the birth of two foremost 20th-century artists. **Commemorating Antoine Camilleri (1922-2005): A hundred years from his birth**, was held at the Camerone from 17 November to 4 December, while **100 years: Commemorating Frank Portelli's Art and Life**, was also held at the Camerone from 9 December to 8 January 2023.

HM also organised a small exhibition to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Santa Marija* convoy and the George Cross at the National War Museum, and on 1 October set up the exhibition *Akkwisti ta' Heritage Malta għall-Kollezzjoni Nazzjonali 2020-22*, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister at the Auberge de Castile, for the Notte Bianca.

Apart from the above, HM also lived up to its mission of accessibility to all by participating in various other local exhibitions through lending of artefacts or showcases. These included exhibitions at the National Archives, the Gozo Cathedral Museum, the Fgura Local Council, the Casino Maltese, *Spazju Kreattiv*, the Beland band club of Żejtun, and the Storm Petrel Foundation. On other occasions, we made our museums available to host exhibitions by other local organisations, including the Tayar Foundation for Jewish Heritage in Malta at Fort St Elmo, the Society for Scale Modellers annual exhibition at the Malta Maritime Museum, and by *Aġenzija Sapport* at Fort St Elmo. Full details are listed in Appendix 2. Worthy of special mention is the collaboration with *Spazju Kreattiv* and the Gabarron Foundation for an artistic event at Ġgantija Temples entitled *AMBIT*, consisting of live action painting by the Spanish contemporary artist Cristobal Gabarron, accompanied by local performers and musicians on 29 October. The event aimed to promote the creative link between culture, art and innovation and was part of a week-long programme on the islands commemorating the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations.

Moreover, following the public call for the 2020-23 Exhibition and Residency Programme, the following exhibitions were held at MUŻA.

- ‘Hold on to the Air in your Pockets’, by Aidan Celeste and Johannes Buch (artist-in-residence), at the Community Space, from 12 November 2021 to 9 January.
- AKKA, a collective exhibition in the corridors, from 10 December 2021 to 16 January.
- MeliTENSION, by Ramon Azzopardi Fiott, at the Community Space, from 21 January to 27 February.
- Inkimika, hosted by AtelierIO, Printmaker and lithographer Lino Borg and Jesmond Vassallo, Printmaker Justin Falzon, Printmaker and lithographer Laurent Nicolai, and participating artists Vince Briffa, Sue Flask, Debbie Caruana Dingli, Paul Scerri and Robert Zahra, at the Camerone, from 11 March to 17 April.
- Endless Thinking, by Noel Attard, curated by Hannah Dowling, at the Corridors, from 1 April to 8 May.
- Guilty, by Etienne Farrell, at the Community Space, from 5 May to 12 June.
- Connections, by Alfred Camilleri, curated by Patrick Galea, at the Camerone, from 17 June to 24 July.
- Perpetual Motion, by Cyril Sancereau, at the Community Space, from 1 July to 7 August.
- Bellum in Mundum, by Anthony Mallia, curated by Giulia Privitelli, at the Camerone, from 5 August to 11 September.

### Exhibitions abroad

Apart from the exhibitions which were inaugurated last year and ended early this year, comprising displays in Madrid, Rome and Syracuse, HM’s participation in international exhibitions continued with a strong pace as follows:

- The Majmuna Tombstone from the Gozo Museum of Archaeology was displayed at the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation at the United Arab Emirates from 2 March to 26 May. This was the first time that the iconic medieval tombstone left Maltese shores. It was also the first exchange of a cultural artefact between Malta and the UAE. In the meantime, a replica was placed at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology.
- A considerable number of artefacts from the Malta Maritime Museum featured prominently in the exhibition ‘*Mare Furioso. Pirates et Corsaires en Mediterranee XVI-XIX Siecles*’, held at the Musee de Bastia, Palais des Gouverneurs, Corsica, France, from 24 June to 22 December.
- As a follow-up of last year’s exhibition at Seminara, a number of majolica jars from MUŻA were exhibited at the *Museo Diocesano di Gerace*, Reggio Calabria, Italy in the exhibition ‘*Maioliche seicentesche di Gerace. Il ritorno da Malta dopo quattro secoli*’, from 2 July to 1 October.

- The Cippus, with its Greek and Phoenician script, from the National Museum of Archaeology, was displayed at the Musée Champollion, Figeac, France for the exhibition '*Dechiffrements – Les Ecritures du Monde*', from 9 July to 9 October.
- A drawing by the renowned artist Carpaccio from MUŻA is currently featuring in the exhibition '*Vittore Carpaccio: Master Storyteller of Renaissance Venice*', from 20 November to 12 February 2023, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

Other participations in exhibitions abroad are being prepared for next year, including exhibitions in Venice, The Netherlands, and the United Arab Emirates.

## Events

HM remained constantly faithful to its mission of accessibility. Although the first months of the year still witnessed disruptions because of the Covid pandemic, however rhythm picked up in due course, and a considerable number of cultural events were held, including open days, lectures, heritage trails, seminars, cruises, night stays and re-enactments. Open days and special openings with reduced admission allowed thousands of people to experience our sites, both open and others which are normally closed.



The full list of events which the Agency organised, hosted or participated in can be found in Appendix I. The most noteworthy are the following:

Several events were hosted at Fort **St Elmo**. A reduced fee day entitled 'For Gallantry' on 24 April to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the GC to Malta saw the participation of Battlefront Living History Group, the Malta Aviation Museum Foundation and the Malta Vehicle Collectors Club. The highlight of the day was undoubtedly the flypast by Malta's Aviation Museum DeHavilland Tiger Moth biplane trainer over the fort. The inauguration of the HMS *Urge* monument on Abercrombie QF Battery Left took place on 27 April, while the commemoration of the fall of Fort St Elmo during the Great Siege of 1565 took place on 24 June.

Other events were hosted at **Fort St Angelo**, such as 'Aspects of the Castrum Maris' and 'Castellamare', organized on 27 February and 23 October respectively in collaboration with the Historical Reenactment Group Malta, during which the site was animated as a medieval enclave. 'Colours at HMS St Angelo' was organised on 31 March with the participation of the Royal Navy Association Malta and Malta Command, and focused on the Royal Navy use of Fort St Angelo, in particular its shipmast. The traditional 'Victory Day at Fort St Angelo' was held on 8 September. The always popular 'Dark Tales of Fort St Angelo', focusing on the Dark History associated with Fort St Angelo, was held on

7 October. A number of successful guided tours and open days were also held at **Fort Delimara**.

**Haġar Qim and Mnajdra** were once again opened to the public for the observation of the Equinox and Solstice sunrise in June, September and December. During the June solstice, which were also part of this year's European Archaeology Days, visitors were treated to a live performance of Ola Gjeilo's Sunrise Mass by KorMalta, choreographed by Żfin Malta. A sunset tour of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park in June also included visits to Misqa Tanks, the Hamrija Tower and the Congreve Memorial, and was followed by an informal discussion in the Ochre Hall, where visitors were also treated to a Maltese platter and wine.

The torchlight curatorial tour at **Tarxien Temples** was once again sold-out. A children's activity where visitors were taken around the complex by a curator interpreting the part of Temi Zammit was very well received. A bespoke curatorial tour for visually impaired persons, in which a model of the complex was used as an interpretation aid, was similarly successful. In September **Borġ in-Nadur** was opened at a reduced admission fee together with Ghar Dalam. A curator's tour highlighting the urban legends associated with the **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** was held in December. Both **Ta' Haġrat and Skorba** were opened to the general public at a reduced price during FestaFrawli. The Kordin III open day held in May also attracted a good turnout of visitors.

An open day was organised at **Tas-Silġ** together with the Missione a Malta on 10 April. It centred around the work done on site by both Missione and HM and was a great success. A public outreach event entitled '**Domvs Romana: a Residence, a Home**' was organised on 18 June as part of the celebrations of the European Archaeology Days. It consisted of alternating tours respectively about the role of the Domvs as an aristocratic Roman residence and as a temporary home during WWII. A public outreach event entitled 'Cibvs: A Roman Food Experience' was held at **San Pawl Milqi and St Paul's Catacombs** on 8 October. The event consisted of a lecture discussing Roman food followed by a hands-on activity where participants were given the opportunity to create meals based on ancient Roman recipes and taste food. It was a success which merits to be developed further.

Events at the **Malta Maritime Museum**, although hampered with the ongoing constructions works, continued unabated considering the circumstances. The public was invited to visit the museum construction work on two occasions, both attracting a good number of visitors. The museum was also involved in a few events abroad, including a promotional event in Bodrum, Turkey, in the site of the Order of St John's only mainland fort in its Rhodes period. The event was hosted by MTA and attracted two hundred guests.

An open day at **Ghar Dalam** on 21 September attracted a great number of people, and a small display highlighting elephant finds at Ghar Dalam and other Maltese Quaternary sites. The response was overwhelming. The senior curator also provided the narration for three boat trips to **Filfla** in August and September, which were fully booked. Other highly successful cruises were organised in the harbour region.



One of the harbour cruises focusing on World War II and its reverberations on the Grand Harbour, Marsamxett Harbour and their environs

HM and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology (MCAST) signed a Memorandum of Understanding that envisages, inter alia, the setting up of a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Conservation as full-time courses delivered by MCAST. The MOU also provides for the granting of free access, whenever possible, to MCAST students for HM's museums and sites.



Another MOU was signed by HM with the Ministry for Education, Sport, Youth, Research and Innovation, seeking collaboration on various levels between the national cultural Agency and the Malta School of Art.

An open day was organised at Ta' Kola Windmill in conjunction with the celebrations of *Jum ix-Xagħra* in April, when the windmill's vanes were manually operated after each tour. A special pre-booked event was also organised.

HM opened its museums and sites with extended hours and free admission to coincide with

established festivals such as Science in the City – with various workshops taking place at Fort St Elmo on 30 September; Notte Bianca – with extended hours, free admission and a varied programme of events at the National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA and Tal-Pilar on 1 October; and Birgufest – with extended hours, a special combo ticket and unique activities such as the ‘Dark Tales at Fort St Angelo’ event and *Fjakkolata* taking place on 7-9 October.



Emphasis was placed on conveying dynamic experiences through exciting new concept events. Examples of such events were the heritage trails – tracking various routes around the islands including Valletta, Rabat, Mdina, Birgu and rural Qormi; a Night stay at Għar Dalam – taking place on the eve of Sette Giugno and allowing participants to be guided by a curator through the site’s magnificent surroundings and then experience it at otherwise inaccessible hours; the intriguing Betta Caloiro concert at the Inquisitor’s Palace – a collaboration with the Cappella Sancta Catherinae choir; the Cibvs: Roman Food Experience event as part of this year’s European Heritage Days; and also the revamped *L-Għid tal-Erwieħ* event.

Due exposure was also given to the Agency’s outreach efforts for visitors on the autism spectrum, with the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History being the first two museums in HM’s portfolio to introduce autism-friendly measures. These include an afternoon every week during which the museums are transformed into friendlier spaces for such visitors, through softer lighting, the lowering of audio volumes, different access routes and trained staff. In addition, visits to both museums are now facilitated by visual social stories and sensory maps available on HM’s website. In its commitment towards increased accessibility for all sectors of society, HM plans to introduce autism-friendly measures in other museums and sites.

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Finally, other events such as lectures, seminars and workshops also emphasised the Agency’s educational purpose. Worthy examples of this are the Balla Lace Course, which took place at the Inquisitor’s Palace in February and March; various lectures – some of which were connected to running exhibitions such as Principal Curator Nathaniel Cutajar’s lecture in March on the Medieval Gozo National Museum of Archaeology exhibition, and others as part of international days such as Principal Curator Christian Mifsud’s lecture on The Archaeology of Early Modern Valletta: The case of the Auberge d’Auvergne high-status ceramics (17th and 18th century), which took place on 17 June and formed part of the Agency’s European Archaeology Days programme for this year.





EDUCATION,  
PUBLISHING  
AND OUTREACH

This year saw the end of the Covid 19 restrictions. Consequently, for the scholastic year starting September, most activities and events went back to being held in situ in the various museums and sites. This, however, does not mean that activities and talks delivered virtually via the platforms MS Teams and Zoom were abandoned. The virtual thematic activities continued being offered; each was forty minutes long (the duration of one lesson) and included a talk, the showing of a brief documentary prepared internally and an activity the students could subsequently do in class or at home. Due to the brief duration of each activity, and the fact that through the virtual world more students can be reached at once, this year we reached more students than what is possible when holding the thematic activities in sites or museums. In total, 85 sessions were delivered virtually, with 133 classes reached. In all seven different online programmes were offered on the following themes: Arms and Armour; *UĊUH* – Portraits of MUŻA; The Hypogeum; Neolithic Life; World War II; Classic Architecture, and *Id-Dgħajjes tal-Latini*.

The scholastic year 2022-23 also witnessed a return to the thematic cross-curricular programme of activities which were usually delivered pre-Covid. The focus of these activities is one based on the Learning Outcomes Framework of the National Curriculum. Each thematic activity is focused on a particular event or period in history which students are taught about in class, so that the visit to the museum becomes a relevant and important part in the learning experience. Through the museum visit, students are given the opportunity to interact more with the primary sources referred to in their textbooks. Since most activities are cross-curricular in nature, the fluidity and interconnectedness between different subject matters is evidenced. Many of the thematic activities are designed in close collaboration with the various Education Officers in charge of the subjects being tackled. They also have the full support of the ministry's Education Division. Activities were open to all schools, and over the scholastic year, we have offered activities that could be followed by every level, from kindergarten to post-secondary. The thematic programmes offered during the year are listed in Appendix I – Events Calendar. A total of sixty workshops were given, with 1,925 students reached.

As each year, several activities organised by various departments within the Ministry of Education were also hosted in HM sites and museums. Collaborations with the Mathematics Department, National Literacy Agency, the Maltese Department, the Art Department, the Geography Department, the Fashion and Textiles Unit, and the History Department were strengthened, and programmes and plans are being drafted for the next scholastic terms. Several lesson-plans covering art, geography, maths, physics, and music are also being prepared for primary, middle, and secondary schools to be used by teachers as resources prior to visiting museums. A children's audio guide for St Paul's Catacombs has also been prepared and is being recorded.

The **HM Passport Student Scheme** was continued and was offered to the students who started Year I. This Summer Programme was run for the fourth time. It ran from July to September and offered students talks and activities delivered online and in person in the most popular HM museums and sites. Twenty-one workshops were organised, and the number of students reached was 243. Moreover, sites not usually open to the public were made accessible to VISA passport holders, which during this year included Abbatija tad-Dejr, Tal-Pilar Church, and the Diagnostic Science Laboratories at Bighi. Other specific activities offered to Student Passport Holders were held at the National Museum of Natural History, Tarxien Temples, Għar Dalam and Fort St Elmo, and are listed in Appendix I – Events Calendar. Students from MCAST have this year joined the programme following the signing of a memorandum of understanding and can thus benefit from free unlimited visits to all HM sites and museums. This

scheme has proved once again to be successful, with 16,095 child admissions, together with 19, 414 accompanying adults.

The same can be said for the **HM Senior Passport Scheme** which following last year's hiatus was once again popular and registered 8803 visits. Several activities were specifically organised for senior passport holders, with topics ranging from Roman catacombs and food, film projections, cloth dyeing, Neolithic art, Christmas traditions, and talks on Valletta and the Inquisition. A full list can be found in Appendix I – Events Calendar.

Efforts to **improve accessibility** have registered further progress. With the knowledge that each one of us has different learning abilities and skills, accessibility is being increased by diversifying the activities and resources produced, with the aim of reaching out to as wide an audience as possible. The following are worthy of mention:

**Visual Impairments** – together with the Department of Translation from the University of Malta, the painting 'Maltese Folk Character's by Giorgio Preca was chosen from MUZA to be audio-described. The audio description was carried out in Maltese and in English, together with a version specifically directed at children. These files will soon be made available on the website. In addition, the following activities were organised in collaboration with the Spero Foundation:

- 25 April, Touch Tour of Tarxien Temples – Participants were given a tour of the site and encouraged to touch models of the temples, replica megaliths, and several authentic but unprovenanced artefacts dating back to Neolithic Malta.
- 13 June, Taste Roman Malta – Participants could touch the catacombs and some of their features, replica artefacts and eat food typically eaten by the Romans, at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 25 October, Neolithic Art – Temple art was discussed at Hagar Qim, and several replicas were handed out so that participants could touch them. Participants were also given wooden boards and pieces of rope so that they could create their own spirals.
- 2 December, Maltese Folk Characters – Participants listened to the audio description of the painting by Giorgio Preca and touched the painting which had been reproduced in relief using different materials. They were also given cardboard and different materials by which they could create their own tactile painting, at MUZA.

**Hearing Impaired** – fifteen short audio visuals from the Inquisitor's Palace were recorded in sign language together with the Speech and Language Department within the Health Ministry. These audio visuals will be available on the website. A tour in sign language of the exhibition 'Giorgio Preca ta' Malta' was offered on 19 February.

**People living with Dementia** – The following events were organised in collaboration with the Association for People Living with Dementia:

- 12 April, Lent Traditions – Participants discussed Good Friday and Lent traditions and were given a brief tour of the Good Friday exhibition, followed by coffee and the *Qaghqa tal-Appostli*, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

- 21 June, Memories of WWII – Participants were given a brief tour of the WWII exhibition halls, followed with the projection of damaged buildings from WWII and the listening of some music of the era, at Fort St Elmo.
- 3 October, *Il-Ftira* – During this activity held at the Inquisitor’s Palace, the baking and the roots of the traditional *ftira* were discussed followed by *ftira* tasting.
- 28 November, Self and Identity in Portraits – A few portraits were brought out of the reserve collection and identity and self-portraiture were discussed. Participants were after invited to create a self-portrait through collage, at MUŻA.
- 16 December, Christmas during WWII – Participants discussed Christmas food during WWII in Malta, followed by the playing and singing of Christmas carols.
- A talk on how to welcome and guide people living with Dementia was also provided to HM staff.

**People suffering from Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).** Together with ‘Culture on Wheels’ a series of tours are being organised for people suffering from ALS. This year the Domvs Romana and Fort St Elmo were visited.

**Autism Spectrum Disorder.** The activity ‘Discover the Natural History Museum’ for children on the autism spectrum was organised in collaboration with speech language pathologists from the Primary Healthcare Department on 22 April. Children and their parents participated in a series of short activities all focused on discovering the different themes discussed in the exhibition halls, ranging from geology to shells to bones to mammals to butterflies. Autism Friendly Spaces were officially launched at the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History. Moreover, Sensory Maps and two more Social Stories are being produced for the Inquisitor’s Palace and Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples in collaboration with ‘Prisms’.

Other audiences targeted with the aim of making sites and museums more accessible are the I Belong group, a series of familiarisation visits for groups of foreigners who have permanently moved to Malta coordinated in collaboration with the University of Malta (77 visits, 1011 participants) and the Caritas Inmate Programme, a programme aimed at introducing culture to inmates. Other activities included ‘*Xalata ta’ Kitba*’ events in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, hosting of talks and workshops by the University of Malta, full participation on the *Skola Sajf* Programme, and others. For a full list please refer to Appendix I – Calendar of Events.



The Agency's publishing arm stepped up the production schedule. The year 2022 proved to be a record in terms of titles published. The highly popular Monograph series was enriched by two titles, while the Official Guide series has been augmented by three books. Attention was also given to young readers, in particular the Maltese Heritage Fun-Activity-Story series which received three additions. A new series, HM Biographies, has also been launched, whereas the Agency's bi-annual bulletin has been given a new lease of life. Hereunder, is a full list of all titles produced during the year under review:

1. Swords of the Religion (HM Monographs - 3), ISBN: 978-99932-57-95-0
2. Life with Hugo (Maltese Heritage Fun-Activity-Story - 4), ISBN: 978-99932-57-96-7
3. The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Fort St Angelo, ISBN: 978-99932-57-97-4
4. A College for the Arts, ISBN: 978-99932-57-98-1
5. Celebrating Music: a selection of good causes, ISBN: 978-99932-57-99-8
6. Heritage Malta, Part of Us, ISBN: 978-9918-619-00-9
7. Life with Oscar (Maltese Heritage Fun-Activity-Story - 5), ISBN: 978-9918-619-01-6
8. Heritage Malta Annual Report 2021, ISBN: 978-9918-619-02-3
9. The Heritage Malta Official Guide to the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, ISBNs: 978-9918-619-03-0 (hbk), 978-9918-619-04-7 (pbk)
10. Flavours of Autumn: Traditional Cuisine of Malta & Gozo, ISBNs: 978-9918-619-05-4 (hbk), 978-9918-619-06-1 (pbk)
11. Tesseræ 12: Autumn 2022, ISBN: 978-9918-619-08-5
12. Joseph Mallia: Edukatur, Illustratur, Pittur (Customised Edition), ISBN: 978-9918-619-09-2
13. Joseph Calleja: from little Italy to little things, ISBN: 978-9918-619-10-8
14. Heritage Malta Museums and Sites: The Mediterranean in a Nutshell (2nd Edition), ISBNs: 978-9918-619-11-5 (hdk), 978-9918-619-13-9 (pbk)
15. Life with Isabella (Maltese Heritage Fun-Activity-Story - 6), ISBN: 978-9918-619-12-2
16. Slavery, Treason and Blood: The 1749 Plot of the Slaves in Malta (HM Monographs - 4), ISBN: 978-9918-619-14-6
17. Heritage Malta Year Planner, ISBN: 978-9918-619-16-0
18. The Heritage Malta Official Guide to the National War Museum, ISBNs: 978-9918-619-17-7 (hbk), 978-9918-619-18-4 (pbk)

During the year under review, the Didactic Resources' front focussed on the contents of an interactive web platform on Cottonera. This will enable users to navigate physically through the evoking streets of the Three Cities and adjoining Kalkara, and to discover their rich patrimony. Said platform will include a cornucopia of accurately researched information snippets on the respective monuments, momentous historic happening and annual traditional events, while providing a vast range of resources for organised educational visits.

To this effect, structured writeups and accompanying graphics for each of the following fortresses have been generated, namely: (1) Fort St Angelo, (2) Birgu Landfront & Enceinte, (3) Fort St Michael & Senglea Enceinte, (4) Margherita Lines, (5) Fort Verdala, (6) Cottonera Lines, (7) Fort San Salvatore (8) Fort Ricasoli, (9) Fort Rinella, and (10) Fort St Rocco. Corresponding resources have been generated for all churches and oratories, namely [BIRGU] (1) Collegiate of St Lawrence, (2) Oratory of the Holy Crucifix, (3) Oratory of St Joseph & Chapel of Our Lady of Damascus, (4) Church & Friary of the Annunciation of Our Lady & Ruzarjanti's Oratory, (5) Church of St Anne & Monastery of St Scolastika,

(6) Church of Our Lady of the Angels, (7) Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel & remnants of former Monastery, (8) Church of the Holy Trinity, (9) Church of St Anne, (10) Church of the Nativity of Our Lady, (11) Church at Advanced Gate, (12) Church of Our Saviour; [BORMLA] (13) Sanctuary of the Immaculate Conception, (14) Oratory of the Holy Crucifix, (15) Church & Friary of St Theresa, (16) Church & Monastery of St Margherita, (17) Church of St Paul, (18) Conservatory & Church of St Joseph, (19) Church of St John Almoner, (20) Troglodithic Church of the Nativity of Our Lord, [ISLA] (21) Basilica of the Nativity of Our Lady, (22) Oratory of the Holy Crucifix, (23) Oratory of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, (24) Church & Friary of Our Lady of Porto Salvo, (25) Church of St Julian, [KALKARA] (26) Parish Church of St Joseph, (27) Church of St Barbara & Friary of St Liberata, (28) Church of Our Saviour, (29) Church of St Nicholas. This corpus has been complemented by a series of historical Treasure Hunts, one for each of the four localities.

The Merchandise front was equally awarded due attention. The year kicked off with a series of focus groups, involving all staff members within the curatorial and operations arms. The main aim of these focus-groups was to identify representative themes/artworks/elements for each museum and sites. Besides, in early May, the Department's Manager participated in the annual London Museums + Heritage Show to establish contacts with potential suppliers. The list of bespoke and exclusive sets of merchandise produced during 2022 comprises (1) four bullet journals, (2) five baseball caps, (3) six T-shirts, (4) four travel mugs, (5) four zipper pencil cases, (6) ten flexible magnets, (7) one Jigsaw Puzzle, and (8) six cushion covers.





OTHER  
CORPORATE

The major commitment for the **Communications and Marketing Department** during the year was the PR drive leading up to the official rebranding of HM, launched to the public on 27 May. The new brand identity included the new slogan 'Part of Us', a new logo inspired by Maltese stone and by the traditional local craft known as 'tberfil', and a completely revamped website.

The new logo summarises concisely what the Agency stands for. The middle empty space, forming the letter 'H', refers to the intangible heritage of the Maltese Islands. The top part of the logo symbolises the historic sites on land, while the lower part represents our underwater heritage. The logo retains its form even if rotated.



The slogan 'Part of Us' was chosen because HM firmly believes that the cultural patrimony passed down to us, both tangible and intangible, is our collective responsibility as a nation and we must all do our part to safeguard it and to leave it to our successors in a better state than we found it. The history and culture of our country are part of all of us — Maltese families who have been living on these islands for centuries, those who have chosen Malta to be their home, and also those who visit us for a short time from all over the world.

For the launch of its new brand identity, HM organised an evening of cultural entertainment at Fort St Elmo to which all employees and several stakeholders were invited. The event was addressed by the Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, and HM's Chief Executive Officer.



Heritage Malta CEO, Mr Noel Zammit



Heritage Malta CEO, Mr Noel Zammit and  
Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government, Hon. Owen Bonnici



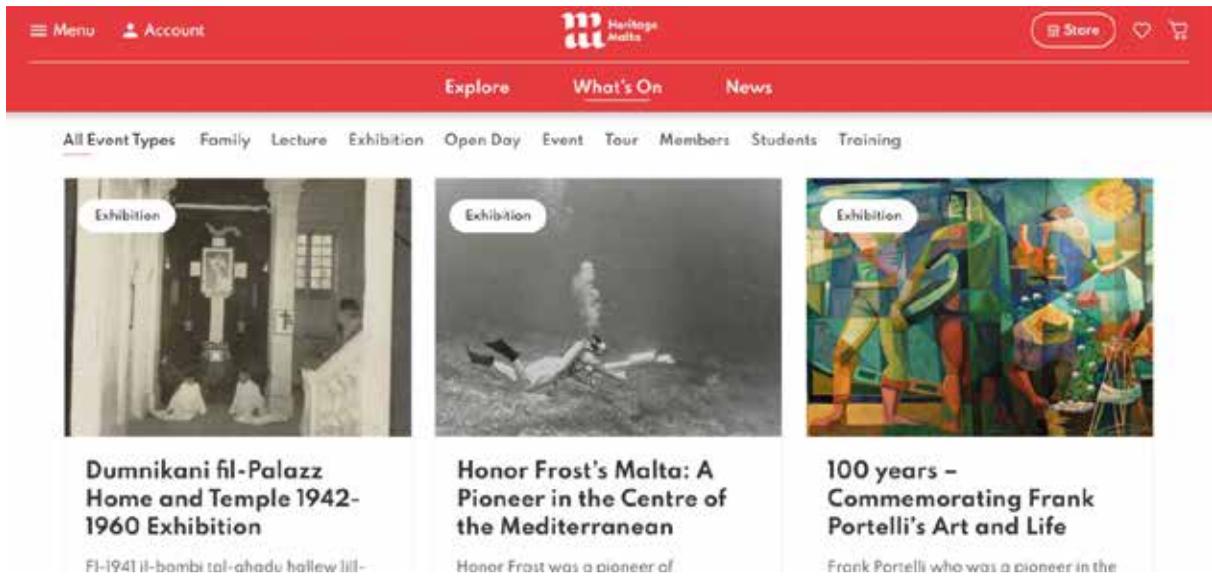
The celebrations for the launch of HM’s new brand identity included a special open day at various HM sites and museums in Valletta, and an exhibition of artefacts spread across museums and sites in Malta and Gozo. Through this exhibition, using recycled material for the setup, the Agency strengthened its commitment towards environmental sustainability.



Throughout the year, work continued towards the update of the new HM website (heritagemalta.mt) and the migration of content from the old website to the new one. New pages (including the introduction of community, donations, volunteering, projects and subsidiary pages), and visual and written content were created, providing increased navigability and exposure for our overhauled events section and a combined online shop and ticketing portal.

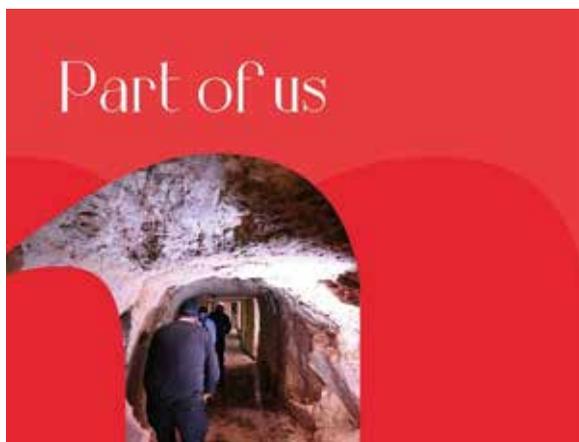


Main page of heritagemalta.mt



### What's On section of heritagemalta.mt

Additionally, the department led to the creation of two documentaries, one in Maltese and another in English, on the ethos and core values at the heart of the Agency's new brand identity. The documentaries were accompanied by a series of billboards and short audiovisual features uploaded to our social media, featuring HM Brand Ambassadors. These ambassadors – high achievers in the fields of education, entertainment, fashion, literature, sport and human rights – were chosen to champion and complement the same heritage values embedded in our new brand identity. The chosen ambassadors were Professor Alfred J Vella, Professor James Calleja, Professor May Cassar, Luke Azzopardi, Trevor Zahra, Destiny Chukunyere, Joseph Mbong, Dr Sara Ezabe, Claire Agius Ordway and Ray Żazu Farrugia.

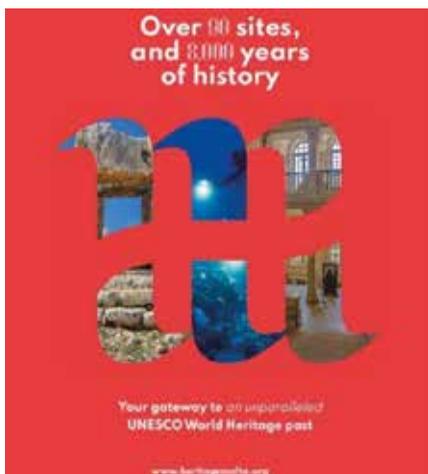




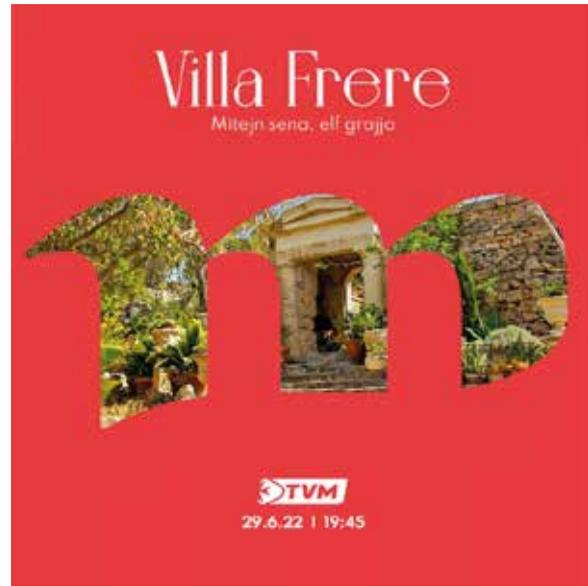
Several iconic photographs of sites and artefacts from the national collection were also selected as key images for the campaign, and artwork was created for use on billboards and other promotional material.



The department also compiled content to be included in gift packs for the official launch and for press articles, a video featuring staff repeating the 'Part of Us' slogan, a two-month social media campaign, online banners on online news portals, and adverts.



The department was also heavily involved in the creation of two beautiful HM productions which graced the national airwaves. TVM, the national broadcaster, aired *Vjaġġ ta' 450 sena jissokta* – a 25-minute documentary about the first phase of restoration works at the Grand Master's Palace – and also *Villa Frere: Mitejn sena, elf ġrajja*, a documentary about the history of Villa Frere and ongoing restoration works that will give a new lease of life to this 18th-century property in Pietà.



In February, the department wrote an eight-minute script and accompanying shot list for an official HM corporate video to promote the Agency's mission, projects and services on the international stage.

In September, as the world reeled from the unexpected demise of Queen Elizabeth II, the department made all the necessary arrangements for the predicted attention that Villa Guardamangia – once the Queen's home away from home – would receive by the international media. Three separate crews from the BBC, Associated Press and The Telegraph were given the requested assistance to produce features about Villa Guardamangia.



Heritage Malta COO, Mr Kenneth Gambin, interviewed by BBC Journalist Lucy Williamson

From a local perspective, the department coordinated TV, radio and newspaper interviews about Her Majesty's ties with Malta, with a particular focus on Villa Guardamangia.



A script was also written for a documentary spanning Queen's Elizabeth's frequent stays in Malta in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This was aired on HM's social platforms, garnering a strong following. Additionally, the Communications and Marketing team oversaw the arrangements for a commemoration of Queen Elizabeth II which was held outside Villa Guardamangia on the initiative of the British High Commission.



In September, the Communications and Marketing Department, in collaboration with the Digitisation Department, launched HM TV, an endeavour inspired by the CEO. The in-house production kicked off on 1 September with a series of one-minute audiovisual features uploaded to our various social media channels each week. The main aim behind the series is to showcase the various behind-the-scenes work that occurs at HM, which the public doesn't often get to see. It focuses on the myriad conservation and restoration, curatorial, educational, publishing, archaeological and other little-known projects and initiatives happening daily, including support work across all departments.



HM CEO Mr Noel Zammit in discussion with the HM TV production team before going live with our first episode on HM's social media platforms

The department team also proposed an intimate series of twenty-five documentaries entitled 'Treasure To Meet You'. The series represents an inclusive effort to appreciate curatorial input and provide a public platform for lesser-known artefacts within the national collection. For each of these three-to five-minute documentaries, uploaded to our social media pages in both English and Maltese versions, curators were asked to select their favourite artefact or feature from the national collection and explain why they feel especially connected to it. Besides revealing why each selection is culturally significant, curators were asked to illustrate the political, social and economic context in which the artefact or feature was created. 'Treasure to Meet You' provides an opportunity for the public to meet our often invisible professionals who play a significant role in how visitors to our museums and sites experience what they see. The bite-sized documentaries, which HM's audiences have enthusiastically received, will also be broadcast on Television Malta. The series, which made its public debut at the start of October, is an HM TV production.

In November, the department was entrusted with creating and coordinating a Christmas promotional campaign for a Great Siege Hamper, HM's Taste History initiative. Priority was given to creating a twenty-second promotional video aired on Television Malta before the broadcast of the programme *Ninvestigaw X'Qed Nieklu* during the week commencing the 28 November. The programme featured eight-minute slots each day where curators Liam Gauci and Kenneth Cassar and historian Noel Buttigieg provided historical and nutritional anecdotes connected with the hamper's contents. The Department coordinated the styling, filming and airing of this promo, artwork and photography for magazine and social media adverts, besides written content for the HM online shop, HM news portal, HM member/subscriber/and B2B newsletters, social media blurbs, and articles in Newsbook's online portal and Artpaper magazine. This initiative was also promoted on *The Sunday Times of Malta*.



### The Great Siege Hamper

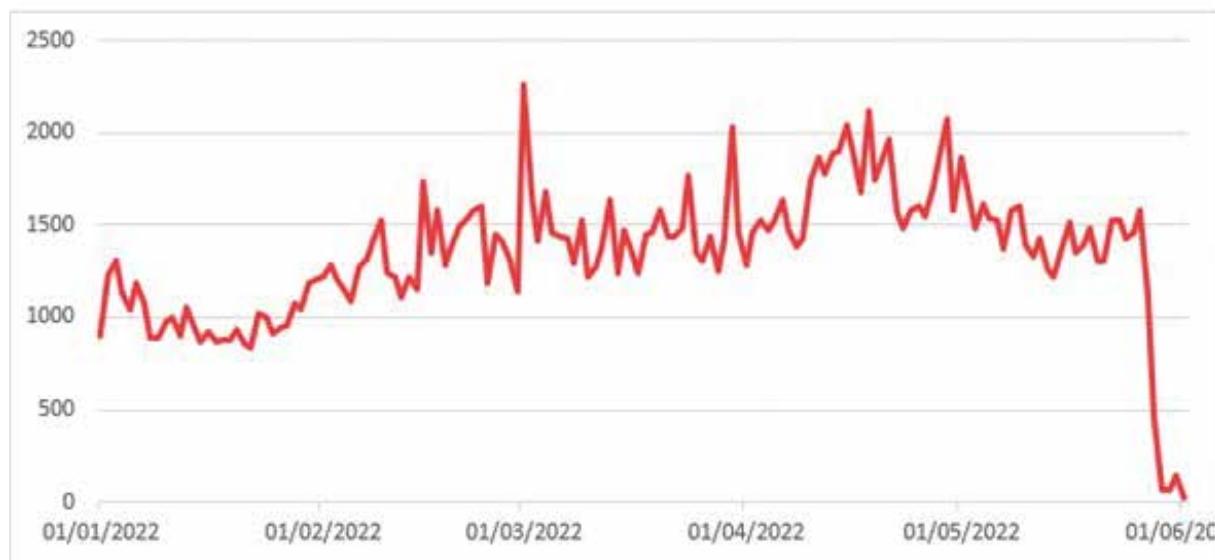
The Communications and Marketing Department created three characters and wrote scripts for each one as part of an immersive audiovisual experience enhancing visits to Underground Valletta. The experience focused on three aspects that stood out in the lives of civilians in Malta and the allied countries during World War II: shelter, famine and resistance. The fifteen-minute multi-media immersion resulted from a project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade, through its Cultural Diplomacy Fund, and HM. 'Shelter, Famine and Resistance', as narrated by three actors, formed part of an international collaborative effort to promote peace through the exchange of similar audiovisual presentations on the same theme. By highlighting the hardships shared by various countries during the Second World War, the project's objective was to unite people from different countries through these shared experiences.

From a conventional media perspective, the Agency resorted to different ways of conveying its message. A total of 64 press releases were issued, 101 appearances were registered on television programmes, 17 interviews were conducted on radio programmes, nine articles were published in magazines, 468 articles were published online (mainly on [tvm.com.mt](http://tvm.com.mt), [timesofmalta.com](http://timesofmalta.com), [maltatoday.com.mt](http://maltatoday.com.mt), [independent.com.mt](http://independent.com.mt), [one.com.mt](http://one.com.mt), [netnews.com.mt](http://netnews.com.mt) and [illum.com.mt](http://illum.com.mt)) and ten press conferences were held. HM was mentioned in 390 articles in local and foreign newspapers.

Since in June there was the changeover from the old website to the current version, demographic, user, and pageview statistics are going to be considered separately. This is due to changes in the website's wireframe which affects the users' journey within the website itself. On the other hand, the top five news items and top ten museums and sites webpages are going to be considered as one since the manner the news is published did not change and the museums and sites have not changed either.

### Preliminary statistics of the old website

- 157,089 users
- 1,009,182 page views
- 2 minutes 20 seconds average time per user



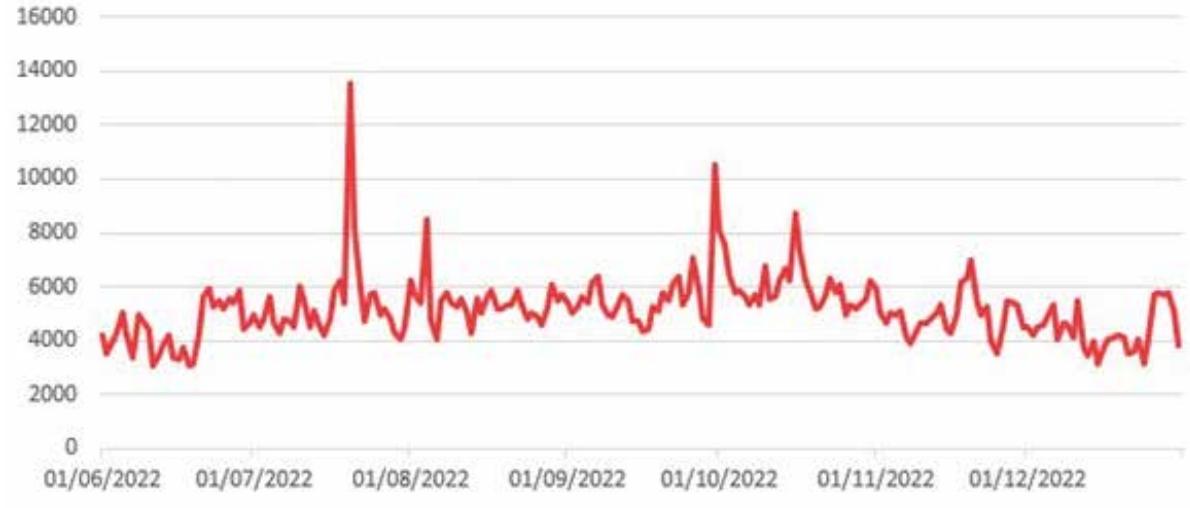
Users' access to old website line graph representation from January to end of May

### Demographics

- Malta: 41.28%
- United Kingdom: 10.61%
- United States: 7.66%
- France: 4.71%
- Italy: 4.20%
- Germany: 4.04%
- Poland: 2.95%
- Spain: 2.61%
- Netherlands: 2.30%
- Belgium: 1.46%

### Statistics of new website

- 265,321 users
- 1,105,336 pageviews
- 1 minute 45 seconds average time per user



Users' access to current website line graph representation from June to end December

### Top ten museum and sites on new website (Page views)

- Main page: 115,303 (10.43%)
- Online store: 107,668 (9.74%)
- Explore page: 82,003 (7.42%)
- Hal Saflieni Hypogeum: 68,253 (6.17%)
- What's on page: 44,541 (4.03%)
- Underground Valletta: 38,102 (3.45%)
- National Museum of Archaeology: 22,574 (2.04%)
- Cart: 22,076 (2.00%)
- National Museum of Natural History: 21,935 (1.98%)
- Fort St Elmo - National War Museum: 20,848 (1.89%)

## Demographics

Malta: 50.44%

United Kingdom: 8.97%

United States: 6.05%

Italy: 5.00%

France: 4.36%

Germany: 3.94%

Spain: 3.04%

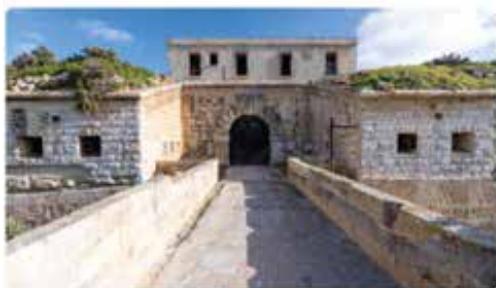
Poland: 2.70%

Netherlands: 1.70%

Australia: 1.42%

## Top news items on website

A day of free guided tours and re-enactments at Fort Delimara: **5,184 Page views**



Press Releases | 30 Sep 2022

### A day of free guided tours and re-enactments at Fort Delimara

Heritage Malta will open the fascinating Fort Delimara for a day of free guided tours and re-enactments on Sunday 16th October. Fort Delimara was built between 1876 and 1878 to defend the approaches to Marsaxlokk Harbour..

[Read more →](#)

A night at two museums and a church as Heritage Malta opens three sites for Notte Bianca: **1,713 Page views**



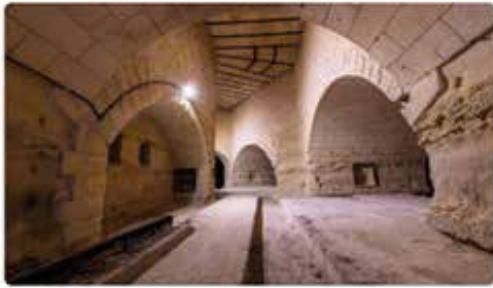
Press Releases | 23 Sep 2022

### A night at two museums and a church as Heritage Malta opens three sites for Notte Bianca

Three Heritage Malta sites in Valletta will remain open long into the night, with free admission, during this year's Notte Bianca on Saturday 1st October. A number of recent acquisitions by Heritage Malta will also..

[Read more →](#)

Cleansing and consolidation works breathe new life into Fort Delimara: **1,517 Page views**



Press Releases | 31 Aug 2022

## Cleansing and consolidation works breathe new life into Fort Delimara

Fort Delimara is being given a new lease of life through cleansing and consolidation works that are not only enhancing its appearance but also enabling parts of the fort to regain their accessibility. Minister Owen Bonnici...

[Read more →](#)

Fort St Angelo open at a reduced price on Victory Day: **1,457 Page views**



Press Releases | 23 Aug 2022

## Fort St Angelo open at a reduced price on Victory Day

On the 8th of September, Victory Day, Heritage Malta will open the doors of the majestic Fort St Angelo to the public at a reduced admission price of €3. This event will include access to...

[Read more →](#)

An immersive experience further enhances a visit to Underground Valletta: **1,455 Page views**



Press Releases | 17 Nov 2022

## An immersive experience further enhances a visit to Underground Valletta

An immersive audiovisual experience will further enhance visits to Underground Valletta in the coming days. The experience is the result of a project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade through its Cultural...

[Read more →](#)

### Top ten museum and sites on both websites (Page views)

Hypogeum: 171,636

Underground Valletta: 74,187

Fort St Elmo – National War Museum: 52,578

National Museum of Archaeology: 43,747

St Paul's Catacombs: 41,764

Tarxien Temples: 38,091

Haġar Qim: 33,116

Ġgantija: 28,535

Fort St Angelo: 13,731

Inquisitor's Palace: 23,640

### Social media statistics – Facebook Heritage Malta Page

- 509,244 users reached
- 90,580 reactions
- 8,228 comments
- 7,945 shares
- 70,122 link clicks



Graphical representation of Facebook page likes increase from January 2022 to end of December 2022

### Instagram Heritage Malta Profile

- 61,678 users reached
- 5,410 reactions and comments

## YouTube Heritage Malta Profile

- 364,803 users reached
- 74,008 views

Throughout the year, a newly established Patronage committee discussed the design and implementation of an innovative Patronage strategy that will replace the existing Membership scheme.

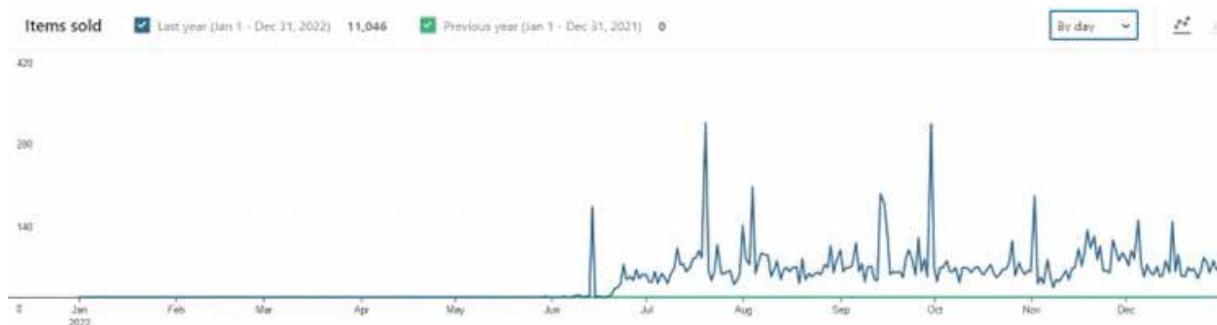
The Patronage umbrella will incorporate the following streams:

1. Become a Member
2. Become a Corporate Patron
3. Leave a Legacy
4. Donate your time (Volunteers)

New membership categories were created with corresponding prices, revised and improved benefits and discounts. In addition, in consultation with the BDU, the Department created original text and categories for the new website 'Corporate Patron', 'Leave a Legacy', and 'Donate Your Time' pages. Corporate Patron packages and benefits were streamlined and refined, while 'Leave a Legacy' encompasses individual monetary donations, monetary donations to conserve a particular artefact, legacies left in wills, and donations of artefacts.

Alongside the rebranding of HM, work commenced in earnest to rebrand the corporate image of Exclusive Venues, an HMSL entity. A newly overhauled website, following brand guidelines and logos, was launched towards the end of the year. In the meantime, the Department, together with the BDU coordinated the creation and execution of the various outputs promoting Exclusive Venues, such as social media posts to advertise the Bighi Esplanade and Garden, generic events; a series of video promos featuring wedding venues dressed up for the occasion and a full-page advert for editions of wedding publications.

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned the recent growth of e-commerce into a boom. This led the Agency to explore this sector and digitize its offerings on the new HM website (heritagemalta.mt) which includes a combined online store and ticketing portal. The product range includes site tickets, event tickets, guidebooks, figurines, memberships, and souvenirs. The online shop was launched in the first week of June. With our online shop serving as an extension to HM's physical shops, site and museum tickets were the most sold items.



Top ten tickets sold from the Online Shop ([heritagemalta.mt/store](http://heritagemalta.mt/store))

| Product Title                      | Items sold |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Hypogeum                           | 1,284      |
| Underground Valletta               | 1,215      |
| Ġgantija & Ta' Kola                | 771        |
| Haġar Qim Park                     | 725        |
| HM Multisite Pass                  | 663        |
| St Paul's Catacombs                | 573        |
| National Museum of Archaeology     | 566        |
| Tarxien Temples                    | 404        |
| Fort St Elmo & National War Museum | 368        |
| Prehistoric Combo Ticket           | 211        |

The newly founded **Branding and Design Department**, which is responsible for design, branding, interpretation and merchandise display, had a very challenging year, mainly due to the launching of the new branding and logo for the Agency.

In time for the launch of the new brand and logo, works included the design, manufacture and installation of all signs (and banners), inside and outside museums and sites, the preparation and printing of templates, business cards, brochures, tickets, membership cards, staff uniforms, etc. The process also included the development of all the logos for all sites, as well as the sub-brands of the different functions of the Agency (Heritage Malta Services Ltd, Exclusive Venues, DigiArc, etc). This also included the introduction of the regional branding of the sites and museums. The launch campaign also included a multi-site exhibition, for which recycled cardboard was used for the first time, which was sent to recycling once the exhibition was dismantled. The second phase of the process is to re-brand the various interpretation elements in the permanent display of all museums and sites. The team is constantly developing the brand framework, depending on the various challenges encountered in the implementation phase.

The team clearly understands the need for the Agency to be financially sustainable. Hence, effective visual merchandising and product display in our reception areas/museum shops is a critical revenue stream. Apart from the redesign and streamlining of visual information, a workshop was organised to implement a cohesive strategy Agency-wide. This included the redesign and rebranding of information leaflets promoting our sites and museums and particular events, to ensure effective marketing.

This service-based design department continuously supports other sections of the Agency in their initiatives. One of the core functions is the preparation of graphics required in the marketing of our sites, museums, events and functions, for the various print media and social media platforms. Furthermore, a concept (using recyclable cardboard) was also developed for a pop-up reception/shop, as well as signage, to be used in open days and other events. Extensive work was also carried out in standardising information/signage in reception areas and shops.

The design of exhibitions is also a key function of the department. *The Duminikani fil-Palazz* exhibition was designed and installed at the Inquisitor's Palace and an exhibition is currently being designed and manufactured about George Zahra's Carnival-related collection donated to the Agency. This exhibition shall be inaugurated in February 2023.

The upgrading and improvement of information and interpretation panels in the various sites and museums is an ongoing process. A number of panels were replaced and new ones installed in practically all museums and sites in Malta and Gozo. The Agency is also supporting third parties in the development and design of interpretation strategies for historic sites. These include the Xewkija windmill and the Xlendi Tower, both in Gozo.

The International Relations Office (IRO) is currently working to formalise further the structure of this office in order to focus on three identified areas.

The first focuses on direct collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enhance cooperation and communication with various embassies and consulates abroad. The office has made active contact with various embassies and ambassadors in Malta and abroad, namely those of Spain, the United Arab Emirates, Poland, the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Australia, Turkey, Armenia, Georgia, Romania, Israel, Iceland and Austria. This led to several discussions on different opportunities locally and in the respective countries. The following most significant initiatives were held throughout the year:

United Arab Emirates: A collaboration was concluded with the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation, following which the Majmuna Stone was exhibited for three months (Mar – May) in this museum. Further to this exhibition, various other initiatives were discussed, namely one with Louvre Abu Dhabi targeted for next year.

Spain: A presentation attended by representations from eleven countries was held in Madrid in January targeting South American embassies. The aim of this seminar, organised by the Maltese Embassy in Spain and held in conjunction with HM, the Malta Tourism Authority and Malta Enterprise, was to give more information about what Malta has to offer in the respective sectors.

In the meantime, several initiatives are being discussed for the coming years. To consolidate this, the Agency works closely with the Cultural Directorate and the Ministry of Foreign and EU Affairs to compile Memoranda of Understanding with the different countries in which cultural heritage is featured and promoted as the base of cultural diplomatic work that will evolve and consolidate at a later stage.

The office is also directly involved and leads an Erasmus plus project, BACH – Business Acumen and Communication for Heritage. The project is aimed for higher professionalisation and business acumen, communication and strategic thinking skills. Apart from this, HM is involved in other small to medium-sized EU projects.

The office constantly attends conferences, briefings and online meetings to keep up with opportunities that are constantly offered and that could potentially lead to further cooperation.

These include events organised by The Malta Chamber of Commerce, Digital Nomads, the film industry and the tourism industry among others.

The IT, IS & Innovation Department had a full year improving the services it provides and consolidating and introducing new systems and services.

This year HM saw the scoping exercise of its departments with the aim of understanding better their needs, the way they work and their pain points. This exercise is a stepping-stone towards the acquisition of an enterprise resource planning software, which will offer a unified solution of the many software that the Agency currently uses to tackle its daily tasks. This will not come without the initial work required to set it up and to learn a new software, however, eventually daily tasks will become less tedious. This year, the IS section also gave training sessions on JIRA so that we can make use of this software better. JIRA has continued to grow with the setting up of new projects and the request for services or project milestones. IT, IS & Innovation saw well over a thousand tickets in the services platform alone. This department also launched the New Employee project with Human Resources to track tasks associated with new employees, and ICT Events and Exhibitions to track the requirements and schedule of new events. The Agency also acquired DocuSign, a software which electronically signs and seals a document. This is being used for approvals of a variety of documents especially ones which are born or received digital. Apart from increasing efficiency, since a signature is obtained in minutes without the need to transfer and track physical copies, also helps reduce the quantity of paper the Agency consumes. Since the acquisition of this software, 320 envelopes (an envelope is a folder which contains a number of documents to be signed) were sent and 300 were completed.

The ticketing software – jTicket also saw a lot of improvements and upgrades. The five major ones include:

1. The integration and transfer of the tickets sold online from a separate subdomain to the online shop along with the merchandise.
2. Tickets for sites and events now support a calendar functionality, which means a guest can buy a ticket for a specific day and time slot. This is used for sites as the Underground and Hypogeum.
3. The transfer of the Hypogeum ticketing system from ICON to jTicket. Now we have a single, consolidated ticketing system throughout the Agency.
4. A new membership system which offers a vaster set of features, supports the use of RFID cards, email and SMS notification to members among some of the features implemented.
5. The system now accepts RFID tickets; this means that instead of supplying the guests with a paper ticket, they get a reusable card which is contactless to enter a museum. This feature has the aim to provide a faster and smoother process for visitors entering our sites via the Turnstile and Swing Gate Access Control system.

Other upgrades included EPOS integration with the software, now front of house do not enter the amount due in the EPOS manually but is prompted automatically in the EPOS. This reduces mistakes and time to finish the transaction. The API which is used with various third parties to sell tickets was upgraded to handle new functionalities and we have new tour operators and third parties on our system.

Finally, this year most of the users were transferred to Office 365, the latest office system which also gives access to OneDrive for cloud storage of personal files as well as a number of new programmes and tools for the users to utilise. A lot of work was done on the server and data storage infrastructure to strengthen the infrastructure and offer a seamless experience to the end users both internal and external.

A storage area network was installed in the main server room and currently we are at 36.2% i.e., 110Tb used storage capacity out of the 300Tb of SAN storage space bought. The system can be scaled up to approximately 2Pb, however this will be done as needed since the cost and technology changes yearly as well as our requirements. Care needs to be taken if one wants to favour speed – hence buying SSDs or archival storage i.e slower but bigger hard disks. The core switches in the server rooms were changed from 1G Cisco Switches to HP Aruba 10G aggregator switches. These are faster, and coupled with fibre cables, make a much more robust system. When connected to the new servers acquired last year and the upgraded servers this year, the internal infrastructure in the server room now operates on 10G. This means that the end user, when connected to the server, will be able to access the internet or internal file server at the top speeds possible. Various software is run on the servers, starting from the financials – Shireburn to the newly acquired CMS by the digitisation department, the intranet and many others.

Finally, the main server room was further cleared and rewired such that it is cleaner and more effective to work in. A huge effort is done and being made to shorten cable length, remove redundant and old wiring and colour code the cables.

The head office also saw the setting up of the second server room as a backup solution if the main server room is down. A set of servers which are as capable as the main server room was installed together with a fibre connection to the main server room as well as a secondary non-MITA connection passed directly to this room. The second server room hosts the backup NAS which keeps a replica of all the data available on the SAN. This NAS keeps a replica of any file or folder ever created and deleted from the SAN. Obviously, this needs to be continuously monitored and cleaned every so often to remove unnecessary files. This is done automatically.

Both server rooms are now equipped with two big uninterrupted power supplies (UPS) and smaller ups. Since most of the systems are dual power supplied, the power system is designed such that no system which supports it is on one UPS only. In general, a new VM hosting structure through VMware was set up. VMware is one of the leading suppliers of virtual machine software. This software was coupled with a new automated backup solution Veeam, which ensures that all data and software is backed up. All the files are backed up on one central NAS and a further redundant backup is kept on another two NAS' away from the server rooms.

Door access control was installed in the top corridor and in select doors at head office, such that the use of keys is reduced and there is a more detailed logs of access to the rooms. The server rooms are no exception. CCTVs were also installed inside the server rooms.

Through a recent acquisition of a high-end computer, IT is now providing a rendering service. Through refurbishing of other mid-end computers, IT is working on setting up a rendering farm which enables the rendering of bigger projects. This computer is installed in the server room and users connect to it

remotely. This helps in keeping the computer at the correct temperature, up to date and close to the file server such that it operates on the highest speeds available.

The department started working on improving the internet access throughout head office and in various sites and museums. Most of head office is now using Ubiquity wireless access points. This offers a faster and stronger WIFI signal. Finally, two new IOG switches were installed at the digitisation department to connect them to the main server room at IOG for faster editing, and fibre cabling is being passed to key locations such that a IOG ready infrastructure is set up internally.

The printers at head office and in Valletta sites will be changed. A tender was awarded allowing the printers to be of the same quality and brand such that we can group them under one service maintenance contract. Slowly the old printers will be decommissioned, and the new ones will take their place even in the rest of museums and sites.

Several museums had their point of sale and/or the network system reviewed and cleaned. Some bulky old computers and monitors were changed to laptops. Old network cabinets which were too small or messy were changed to bigger cabinets and restructured such that they are easier to work on. Sites and museums which had old unmanaged megabit switching equipment were changed to newer managed gigabit switches which are ten times faster.

Custom VLAN's have been introduced in all sites and museums. This finally means that HM will have better network segregation in terms of device management and faster speeds as throughput will be split accordingly.

With the introduction of VLANs and Ubiquiti APs, multiple WIFI SSIDs in all sites and museums are now possible. SSIDs are the name of the internet access the user connects to. In our sites the following are now available: "HERITAGE MALTA" - used for guests, "HM-OFFICE" - used for HM Employees and "HM-ENTERPRISE\_IoT".

A network topology is being drawn for each site, starting off with the largest sites such as FSA, FSE and GGT. This will assist both HM's employees and third-party companies which assist HM at fault finding as well as allow easier configuration of custom network setups to cater for customers that host events within our sites as they may have special requirements. Finally, a rack mounted physical server also with VMWare is being installed in those sites and museums which have a server room with an AC unit.

Two important interventions were carried out at Fort St Angelo, where the entire system of the vaults projections (three vaults in total) was replaced with a new system built to withstand the difficult environmental conditions that the equipment is in. Instead of the standard lamp projectors, laser projectors have been used. These generate less heat, require less maintenance, and have a higher resistance to humidity, all critical qualities when the equipment is installed in that kind of environment. Furthermore, these projectors have been installed in special enclosures that are designed and built specifically to protect projectors and similar equipment that need to be installed in such difficult environmental conditions. In the second intervention, the whole system of the bastion projections has been replaced almost completely, with the only equipment being left from the old system being the projectors and their enclosures, which were still functioning well enough at the time of the intervention. This new system included a new streaming server together with the required licences that was installed, which made it possible to remove the media players, making it easier to upload new content, even

remotely. To enhance this system, a fibre network infrastructure was also installed for a smooth and seamless high-quality audio and video streaming. Since then, this system has functioned quite well, and the only remaining thing now is to upgrade the projectors, that, as explained earlier, are the only remaining part of the old system.

At Fort St Elmo, there were another three major interventions. The first intervention was split in two phases, where the first phase was the total overhaul of the Cavalier audio-visual experience, and the second phase was an overhaul of the six sections of the museums.

The equipment was replaced with a new and a more adequate one specifically designed and built to be used in harsh environmental conditions, as those present in the Cavalier. The whole system was redesigned in a way that it is now more efficient while most of the equipment has now been relocated in the main server cabinet, which was replaced with a dust-proof and air-conditioned one. On the other hand, the five projectors were also upgraded to Laser type, and were put into special enclosures to protect them and extend their life considerably. This means that now we have a system that is easier to manage, much more reliable, and with a much longer life expectancy. The content, most of which was corrupted due to the extensive damage that most of the old equipment suffered, was fixed, and re-rendered. The second phase of this intervention saw the replacement of about 90% of all audio-visual equipment present in the six museum sections, including projectors, media players, speakers, amplifiers, screens and more.

The second intervention was a new Access Control System for visitors installed in the entry and exit points of the site. The aim of this system is intended as a pilot project to establish that it meets all the specific requirements of the sites. It has been introduced to replace the existing old and faulty system, which had multiple serious issues, like not being able to withstand the harsh environmental conditions that it was purchased for, and the total lack of technical support, both by the local supplier and the mother company. Another major flaw of the old system was the barcode scanning validation method that it used, which has proven to be slow, with poor readability especially during summer due to high temperatures or during rainy days, where the paper ticket would get wet and becomes unreadable. The main reason why Fort St Elmo has been chosen for this pilot project is due to it being the site with the harshest environmental conditions, and thus, if the system works well here, it would surely do well in any other site. This system is composed of a set of Turnstiles and Swing Gates that are built in a much more strong and sturdy way. As opposed to Barcode Scanners, this system is equipped with RFID Proximity Readers, which are much more reliable, have a faster readability, work better in high temperatures while rainy days are not an issue since the RFID tickets are made of PVC, and thus water-resistant. This ensures a more reliable system with a faster and smoother process. In addition, the supplier has extensive experience and is well established locally, being responsible for the installation and maintenance of various important places like the Airport, the Valletta Cruise Port, and the Courts of Malta. This gives us further peace of mind with regards to the system's reliability and availability of an efficient technical support.

The third intervention carried out at Fort St Elmo had the aim to repair both the network system as well as the CCTV infrastructure. Considering the massive size of this site, it was decided to split the works into small projects, mainly, the "Outdoor Area", the "Main Server Cabinet" and the "Indoor Area". Since the Outdoor Area was the most damaged and the most critical, it was given priority. Here the repairs required that first and foremost all service pillars (suffering massive water infiltration due to rust

and corrosion) are replaced with new PVC pillars. Once this was completed, it was then time for the fibre connections between the pillars. These were tested one by one, and those faulty were repaired. Next was the turn of the CCTV Infrastructure, where every network cable supplying an external camera was tested (which testing required extensive work on the poles due to corrosion on most of the bolts and nuts). Repairs included new terminations, the replacement of almost all couplers, and the complete replacement of some cables. Once the infrastructure was completely repaired, it was time to start installing new network switches. Here, as opposed to domestic switches, the industrial type was used, built specifically to be installed in an enclosed space, where temperatures are much higher than normal. Once the network in this area was up and running, it was possible to start testing the cameras themselves. From this exercise, it was discovered that many cameras were faulty and require replacement, while two CCTV servers were also found to be beyond repair.

Next in line is the relocation of the Main Server Cabinet. This relocation is meant firstly to have this cabinet in a location that is not as environmentally challenging, while being easily accessible during troubleshooting and repair situations, and secondly to have this cabinet in a more secure location. After that, there is the Indoor Area, which has more issues with active equipment rather than with the infrastructure. However, the first thing to do here is still to test the entire infrastructure before.

Another major project that was undertaken is the GMP Project, where the main jobs here were the responsibility for all ICT, Audio-Visual, Security, and Intelligent Systems, while at the same time keeping in good working order all ICT services that are required by the various teams like architects, engineers, etc., and assisting with the various events organised by the Office of the President as well as with those organised by HM, like open days.

Some other smaller projects are Fort Delimara and Xlendi Tower, both still in progress, including the installation of a Security and a CCTV System in each site. While Delimara will be having standard systems, Xlendi Tower will be equipped with systems running on Photovoltaic Panels, since it is not possible to obtain electrical supply at this site.

Events and exhibitions is another area where this department was involved, by taking care of all Audio-Video Systems that were required for the various events. It was decided to upgrade and increase the equipment so that it was possible to satisfy the increasing demand, while offering more services at a higher and more professional level.

This was another exciting and fruitful year for the Human Resources Department, during which some important milestones were reached, and new initiatives were introduced. Negotiations on the new Collective Agreement were finally concluded and the new agreement covering the period 2020-25 was signed in February. This agreement balances the staff needs with the Agency's sustainability, in view of the competitive context in which the Agency operates. The Agency also launched its new brand identity focusing more on dynamic people-focused approach.

The Agency also continued with its restructuring process to consolidate various departments and invest in its people. In fact, the department continued to strengthen its resources by providing the required training, assistance, and support to all HM staff and by focusing on the main objectives set for 2022. The priority for this year was to continue giving full support to staff in various areas, with the aim to motivate and encourage them to perform better, particularly in stressful situations. A new Activities Committee was also set up with the aim to launch a new inclusive committee with a multidisciplinary

team coming from various departments and also a representative from each region in order to organise events/ activities. This is also in view of HM's vision to give empowerment and decentralisation to the regions. The department also continued to work on various tasks such as Training and continuous professional development, staff engagement and incentives, recruitment, introduction of new policies and procedures in different HM departments, and updating existing policies.

On 15 February, HM signed the new Collective Agreement covering the period 2020-25. In this agreement, we strengthened the family-friendly measures already in place, with the introduction of remote working in applicable departments and more flexible working patterns. We also introduced new allowances such as the standby allowance which will help HM improve its operations and efficiency, height allowance and project allowance, which provides an incentive for employees to be more productive and accountable, while existing allowances were improved. New grades were also introduced, giving employees a better opportunity for career progression. This change in the Agency's hierarchical structure was necessary for employees who need to gain work experience and, in certain areas, to receive their respective warrant.

The new agreement is also committed towards the continuous professional development of employees, through internal training and coaching by outside sources. Employees' mental health has been given due importance, with the Agency pledging its constant and effective support in this regard. Despite financial restrictions brought about by the pandemic, wages were also improved in all grades; employees received arrears due covering the period 2020, 2021 and payrolls 1-3 of 2022 by end July. An important innovation that came into force through this collective agreement concerns nomenclatures. In this respect, the Agency was previously bound by very rigid nomenclatures, but the new ones reflect modern trends and allow more flexibility.

In view of the new Collective Agreement, HR conducted an intensive work to review and create new job descriptions covering all HM departments to reflect the new changes in the agreement and the new duties carried out by different staff. HR also started compiling the career paths for its employees since these are important for our employees to grow, expand, and pursue changing interests in a supportive and encouraging environment. Our aim is to invest in internal talent mobility, help our employees to understand why career agility is important, enable career growth on all levels of the Agency, and at the same time helping our leaders to do a better job of career coaching and understanding the importance of being talent agents for their colleagues.

This year HM has offered varied training to its employees. Training varied from 'living the brand' workshops, in house training, providing inhouse CPD training to warranted conservators and other staff with different warrants and supporting other CPDs, team building activities, induction courses, info sessions, a day out of the office, training in collaboration with other entities, online training, sponsorships and training abroad.

After launching the rebranding, HM organised various webinars to HM employees to explain further What is rebranding? Why was there a need to rebrand? What is our 'new' vision? How are we implementing our strategic objectives identified through the rebranding exercise? What do we hope to achieve by renewing our sense of purpose, and what results can we expect? These sessions focused on how we are going to seed the new brand in every one of us, explaining the rebranding process and the strategy behind its actualisation and outline a way forward. As HM employees, we are ALL ambassadors of the brand. By understanding and participating in this process, we

become active agents helping to channel and reap the fruits of the new brand vision in all that we accomplish. Following these webinars, HR organised fifteen workshops for all HM staff focusing on how we are going to live the brand together, focusing on our culture, values and emphasizing change, understanding what the new brand changes requires, what can we do to show to the generic public that we are going through this transformation, what is required from us to be part of this rebranding and how are we going to relate with the new brand. Basically, these workshops focused on change, ownership, communicating with customers and making it happen.

HM strongly believes in keeping staff updated with the latest trends/information thus continuously invests in providing in-house training and refresher courses for the different departments within the organisation. Internal training included a refresher and update training on firefighting principles, fire awareness and intruder alarm conducted internally by the Security, Health & Safety Department, focusing on Ggantija archaeological park, Fort St Elmo and Fort St Angelo. Other courses were conducted regarding ICT systems and troubleshooting, aimed for specific HM departments, including JIRA fundamentals, statistics and point of sale. This year, we also provided two refresher courses on handling of artefacts aimed for curatorial staff and a second course for technical staff working in exhibitions. Training on integrated pest management was also provided.

This year HR launched a new induction course aimed for new recruits. This was conducted on 24-27 October. This four-day programme included introductions and updates by the CEO and COO, other presentations from various departments, and a short tour of various sites and museums.

HM strongly believes in lifelong learning and professional development for all staff. This year, the Agency invested in providing a list of CPDs to warranted conservators and other HM staff on a complimentary basis. The courses followed the guidelines for CPD issued by the Warrants Board. Some courses were applicable for a targeted audience only, while other generic courses were also available to other HM conservation employees, other HM employees and the general public. A certificate of attendance was issued to all attendees for each course. HM continued also to support staff who expressed their wish to follow any CPD in the different forms such courses, seminars, webinars, conferences, lectures etc. The themes of these CPDs varied from courses related to conservation to courses related to finance and social inclusion. The Agency also continued to sustain its employees by issuing a good number of sponsorships to 23 staff to be able to follow specific courses related to their duties.

HM also provided training to different employees in collaboration with third party entities. Maltese as a Foreign Language was offered to all foreign employees working at HM. The Art of Interviewing skills was offered to HR staff to improve their skills while assessing candidates during interviews. Autism Friendly Spaces course for Autism Ambassadors was delivered to all front of house staff and staff working in education and thematic events to raise more awareness on how to deal with individuals on the Autism spectrum. This was also in line with the introduction of autism friendly spaces at the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History. Disability & Equality Training was also aimed for staff working on the frontline. This served as a refresher course on how staff should deal with persons with different type of disabilities. A refresher course on first aid was also held for staff from different departments. HM in collaboration with the Institute for Public Services (IPS) has again provided different training courses aimed for various members of staff in collaboration with other entities. Training included project management, integrity and ethics awareness, and Customer Care. HM in collaboration with MITA continued to provide training on Government Modern Workplace and Digital Technology at the Workplace. In collaboration with ERA, a talk on climate change

awareness was delivered to a good number of staff working in various departments. The Agency is at the forefront on this subject; a Green Committee was set to provide education and research into possible ways that the Agency may operate to contribute to the reduction of carbon footprint. A policy for the management of green areas in HM sites was launched in December.

The Agency strongly believes that regular team building activities are important in order to enhance communication, encourage creativity, build trust, discover the strength and weaknesses and developing confidence within team members. This year we continued organising a series of day-out-of-the-office for different teams, including the IT, IS & Innovation, Digitisation, the National Museum of Archaeology, Marketing & Communication and the Gozo team of the Upkeep & Manufacturing. Activities varied from fun activities to organised visits in closed sites or in sites which are temporary closed due to ongoing projects.

Similar to previous years, HM was committed to organise a good number of social events. A new Activities Committee was set up with the aim to provide fresh and innovative ideas for social events, since these are important to build relationships between employees, acquire new skills, stimulate the mind, increase motivation, understand different perspectives, and the possibility to engage other cultures. The objectives of this committee include fostering, promoting and sharing innovation and creativity in our working environment, champion collegial participation in activities, and provide means to open communication and respectful fun-seeking activities. These activities may include sports, social gatherings, team building, educational gatherings, and activities involving employees' immediate families and friends. Feedback from staff is essential, thus the committee is continually seeking the feedback of staff to organise events in line with what staff suggests.

We organised three Meet and Eat events: two breakfast and one after-hours edition. These are popular events during which staff generally meet in their respective region before the commencement or at the end of a working day. In summer, the committee organised a team building activity at Fort Delimara and helped cleaning the site followed with an evening BBQ. In October, we organised an internal football tournament. Three dress-down days were also organised in aid of charitable organisations, and a Halloween get-together party. Since it coincided with the popular Oktoberfest, it organised a gory good 'Meet-and-Eat - Oktoberbeast Edition'. In December, we also organised the annual Christmas networking, while during the Christmas holidays we organised two sessions dedicated to 'Bring your kids to work'; staff brought their children with them for a full day of fun and educational activities.

HM in collaboration with other institutions offered different work placements to various students in different areas. Work placements were possible through the Institute for Tourism Studies (ITS) where students following the courses of tour guides and the Diploma in Travel and Tourism were offered placements to help with the manning of reception and performing duties of custodianship in various sites. Ten students benefitted from this scheme. Other work placements were also possible thanks to the collaboration with Jobsplus. HM embarked into three main schemes: the Work Exposure scheme, Traineeship scheme and the Youth Guarantee schemes. In all schemes, students were offered different placements such as front liners, clerical jobs in procurement and finance offices, photography placements in the digitization unit, and draftspersons in the project's office. Seven students benefitted from these schemes. Other placements were possible thanks to the collaboration with MEYR. Students attending the sixth forms were given a number of hours in a limited period. Placements were varied such as conducting custodian duties, processing the senior passport applications, helping the curators

in collecting or processing some data. Twelve students participated through this scheme. HM also offered placement to four students through the MITA student placement programme. Placements were affected at the Digitisation & Digital Outreach team and Branding & Design section.

HM continued to strengthen its collaboration with MCAST regarding the apprenticeship scheme. HM managed to employ twenty-one new students on apprenticeship. Students are currently following full time courses at MCAST. The courses vary from masonry restoration, to advanced diploma in cultural skills, marketing, IT networking, science and in-fashion and retail. These students throughout their apprenticeship are learning on-the-job training while contributing to HM by giving their service in different areas. By the end of the year, active apprenticeships stand at seventeen students; while fifteen students ended their apprenticeship since they conducted successfully their academic course at MCAST. The Agency also embarked on the trainee scheme offered through IPS. This scheme offers the opportunity of part-time employment with the Malta Public Service to students pursuing a tertiary educational course of studies. This scheme is aimed at complementing students' area of study while introducing them to a working environment within the Public Service. HM engaged two students through this scheme.

This year was another challenging year as regards recruitment, mainly due to the redeployment of ex-Air Malta employees in the public sector and the financial repercussions of the pandemic. HM was allocated two new posts and filled in replacement of retirements and resignations. HM is currently employing 336 full time employees: 213 male (63%) and 123 female (37%). HM also employs twenty apprentices, while eighteen employees are on loan. A total of 2,278 instances were reported as absent due to sickness by various employees. The highest rate of absenteeism being January (13.3%), followed by November and July (12% & 11.3% respectively). The lowest rate of absenteeism was marked in February and October (4.52% & 6.06% respectively). A total of nineteen employees left the Agency due to various reasons: thirteen resigned, four retired and two unfortunately passed away.

The Visitor Services Department continued updating the Intranet with new policies/procedures and general information. The JIRA project function of the department has been created and updated on a regular basis. Its main use is to track the ongoing work that Principal Officers have on a periodical basis, such as shop audits, roster, monthly audits, and events.

In July, new targets for the HM gift shops were launched, together with new incentives. The targets will now be viewed as average spent per person, per site and per year (instead of per quarter). As for the incentives, these will be rewarded on the premise of three objectives: Shop target - shop sales vs admissions; number of regional combos sold; and number of upsold guided tours.

Upselling of guided tours: This new incentive was launched later this year. This system is based mainly on teamwork and sales technics; two essential traits for the front of house. The front of house taking part in this initiative must try to upsell guided tours, this way the whole pool will receive a monetary incentive.

The monthly schedule for the audits has been sustained and covers all museums and sites opened to the public. The monthly shop audits were introduced in December 2021. The focus is for the Principal Officer and Shop Coordinator to monitor the museum shop stock each month. Random sampling is done in all gift shops to determine which items are to be audited.

The Front of House Manual had some minor updates. New discount schemes were introduced, and some minor changes were implemented in the admissions and fees structure. Old discount types that

are no longer in use were discontinued. The following new procedures were added to the manual: European Youth Card EYCA Card, One for all vouchers, the Danish Club, Valletta Combo and Train Ticket, and Go to Discount Scheme.

All MTA Quality Assurance Awards have been once again approved, while MUŻA and Għar Dalam have also been awarded the Quality Assurance Award.

One of the main focuses of the Digitisation Department was the collections management system, Gallery Systems TMS, which was purchased, implemented and tested in phases. Training sessions with our supplier, UniSystems, began from March. TMS is expected to go live for staff in early 2023, with a limited public roll out soon after. Through this platform, collection inventories, catalogue data, conservation records and media assets can be connected and accessed through a single interface. Most importantly, metadata can be consolidated and made consistent through TMS, effecting a significant change from the different documentation that exists to date. In May, our department met with representatives from two other Gallery Systems users, Tate and National Gallery, to learn how they have customised their own installations. Through these fact-finding missions, consulting international guidelines on procedures and standards, and undertaking an internal implementation-research phase across HM departments, several key concerns about the migration of data and workflows were identified and are being solved.

The most significant issues are: inconsistent inventories of objects (including the application of unique object identifiers), the distributed nature of catalogue records and how to access and modify them, object movement tracking, a consolidated media store and search facility for digital assets, the tracking of objects used in exhibitions, and the public availability of all the above.

Tying together these workflows and metadata is Spectrum 5.1, an international collection management standard used by museums throughout the world. TMS is fully compliant with Spectrum, meaning that it has the facility to capture and track all information necessary to manage collections to these standards. In 2022 we began to implement three primary Spectrum procedures: Inventory, Cataloguing, and Location and Movement Control. At the Malta Maritime Museum, staff is reviewing all the items in MMM's inventory and establishing Object Numbers for each (as well as past numbers). In parallel, objects are being catalogued. All data is currently being captured into a spreadsheet for migration to TMS. Meanwhile, documentary photography of these objects is also being undertaken. Finally, location records have been created for the museum's reserve collection storage units, so that any time an object moves for whatever reason, there is an administrative record that documents who moved it, why, and when, to establish full accountability for object handling.

Meanwhile, MUŻA's collection of Old Masters Drawings have begun to be arranged for upload into TMS. A sample of records have been entered into TMS as test data, which is proving valuable for reassessing some elements of MMM's catalogue. Extensive testing of eMuseum, TMS's web publishing platform, began through MUŻA's project, which requires a comprehensive public facing portal. A working group of curators also began to clean one of Fotoware's image folders. To date, around 25% of the folder's original 48,000 images have been weeded, being mostly duplicates, poor images, or RAW files that should be stored elsewhere. This task is the first phase of a sweep through Fotoware ahead of migration to TMS.

The primary aims of the EEA project (Digitisation aspect) at the Malta Maritime Museum included:

- The continuation of digitised artefacts pertaining to categories that had already been commenced in previous years, and newly established categories;
- Accountability of the objects through registration and basic metadata.

The main methods of digitisation were photography and archive (2D) scanning. They produced high definition images of each artefact digitised for the EEA project, and in preparation for its uploading into the CMS, as required by the standards set by Spectrum 5.0 (UK Collections Management Standard). In this case, digitisation proceeded on badges, artworks, ship models, and archival material including early 20th-century photographic collections, rare books and ephemera. One of the most prominent ship models photographed was a late 18th-century retractable model of a third-rate ship-of-the-line. An important donation of photographs donated by Judge Giovanni Bonello to the Maritime Museum was also digitised and inventoried.

Other object categories included navigational instruments, artefacts from Customs, weapons, miniature models, and Roman stone artefacts. The number of digitised artefacts for the EEA project include 5,695 from the maritime collection, out of which 118 are digital files of interviews with ex-Dockyard workers, while approx. 1,609 documents and photographs presented by ex-Dockyard interviewees were scanned.

Objects are being inventoried according to the cataloguing procedure of the museum's inventory established by the curatorial team. This step catered for both the backlog of those items digitised in 2020-21, and those newly digitised this year. The previously attributed EEA number is being retained within the metadata structure. Basic metadata is being compiled as a means of identifying the object through data such as all registration numbers attributed to that object, title, period/ date, and dimensions, as well as the object's classification and type. The images produced through digitisation are linked to the metadata through the registration number being used as the file name, as well as having the same number embedded in the photographs.

In August, the Digitisation Unit has been awarded the ISO9001 certification by Lloyds Register Quality Assurance. It is the first department within the national Agency to acquire this prestigious certificate. The certification acknowledges quality management systems according to a set of established criteria and principles, including a strong customer focus, the motivation of top management, the process approach and continuous improvement. These help to ensure that customers get consistent, good-quality products and services, which in turn bring about several business benefits. In our case, the certificate covers the provision of digitisation services for tangible cultural heritage assets entrusted to HM, including any intangible aspects. This was the culmination of a year-long preparation process during which internal procedures were redesigned to be in full conformity with the strict quality criteria established by the certification body. The acquired certificate is recognised internationally, making it even more important for HM as the official aggregator of national cultural heritage data.

The department's multimedia section has been focusing on the use of 360 tours to provide access to virtual visitors and help HM staff and curators. The team managed to capture and compile a 360 tour for each exclusive venue for HM sites, a 360 tour of each prehistoric site in Malta, and a complete tour of Fort Delimara. Apart from these photographed 360 tours, the multimedia team also created a number of 360 videos for underwater site in Malta: HMS *Urge* and *Southwold* shipwreck. Apart

from these two videos a series of 6 videos in collaboration with Ambjent Malta were also produced, showcasing the sites of Ġhajj Tuffieħa, Stokers Cave, Comino, Qawra and Dwejra. These 360 videos were used as an outreach tool in a number of events showcasing Maltese underwater heritage to local and international audiences through the VRSynch system. Finally, the multimedia team has finished the production of a sixteen-minute-long 360 video explaining the harbour's history.

As part of a series of R&D exercises that the multi-media does, one of the most successful prototypes developed was the Hologram unit. The machine works on the simple premise of refraction and is an ideal way to engage audiences with 3D scans and digital assets that the department creates. This Hologram enables the viewer to interact with the visualised objects through a simple joystick setup. The department will continue to develop this prototype to be commercially viable and scalable for different scenarios in HM sites.

One of the primary jobs the multi-media has been doing this year is the recreation and 3D visualisation of HM sites for various uses. Replicas of Fort St Angelo, Fort Elmo, Ċittadella and Fort Ricasoli were remodelled and prepared to 3D print to scale as accurate models. Two extensive projects which the department was tasked with this year were the 3D visualisation of two major HM projects, the MMM and Fort Ricasoli. The MMM project was an Archviz project which shows HM's vision for this museum, apart from a video this Archviz will be useful mostly in later stages when the museum design will take place as to have an exact idea on how certain displays will work. Another major project was Fort Ricasoli, including photogrammetry, reconstruction and in-depth visualisation.

The multimedia team has improved the outcome of 3D models and scanning, particularly through the methods of photogrammetry, both aerial for large scale models and for smaller objects. The improvements in aerial photogrammetry gives us the opportunity to present high-quality models of all our sites, with the potential of selling such models to third party companies such as the film industry. This year, twelve locations were scanned through aerial photogrammetry and 60 objects were scanned using laser scanning and photogrammetry, making the total number of 3D scans finished this year to 725. Two important milestones this year were the scan of the Fort Delimara cannon, the best high-quality model scan done yet. It is also important to mention the two elephants photogrammed in Sicily with the senior curator, the Ġhajj Klieb sarcophagus, and the famous Majmuna stone.

The Digitisation Unit carries out several 3D scanning and photogrammetry work together with conservators, in order to capture and document models before and after conservation. We were tasked by the conservation department to scan a plate found in Villa Guardamangia that had a missing piece. The idea was to reconstruct the missing piece, print it and attach it to the physical artefact. Following some experimenting to reconstruct the missing piece, it was very exciting when the 3D part was printed and attached to the artefact. The conservators also had a glass jar that had missing parts, but in this model, we decided to create a stand that supports the jar, instead of creating the missing pieces. Academic papers with regards to using digitization and 3D printing reconstruction techniques as part of the conservation process are being prepared in conjunction with the conservation department.

The videography unit has mainly worked on the 'Treasure to meet you' series mentioned previously, coverages of events/conferences/launches/live streaming hand in hand with the marketing team. These audio-visuals are shared on HM's socials to market/sponsor the occasion. Another main focus is

the HMTV Series, produced entirely in-house, focusing on bringing to the public's attention the myriad conservation and restoration, curatorial, educational, publishing, archaeological, and other little-known projects and initiatives happening daily, including our behind-the-scenes and support work across all departments. Episodes are airing three times per week.

Following an extensive photographic exercise, 7342 assets from the Gozo Collections have been uploaded on Fotoware. A total of 747 assets were digitized and uploaded for the conservation department, while 1433 digital assets were photographed at the National Museum of Archaeology, and a dark room was set up at MUZA to run as a professional space for digitisation of paintings and works of art. The arts catalogue folder on Fotoware now contains 8400 digitized assets. The digitisation section at Fort St Elmo was also reactivated and included several large-scale maps, books, personal notebooks and diaries.

At the end of 2021, the department received a brand new portable and integrated system for Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI), the Scope D50 developed by Broncolor. The dome comes with an array of 144 lights, 48 for each light source: visible light, ultraviolet (UV), infrared (IR). The dome has been paired with a Nikon Z7II camera modified from a Nikon Italy certified laboratory for multispectral imaging. The system is further complemented by a set of lenses, optical filters to allow capture with all the available light sources of the dome, a proprietary software powered by Truvis for advanced RTI visualization, and a full kit of high capacity batteries, making it possible to use such portable system indoor as well as in situ.

Upon receipt of the components, an extensive series of tests with over 30 objects made from different materials (stone, terracotta, ceramics, glass, metals, plastic, fabric, organic materials) have been carried out in order to stress hardware and software capabilities. The first RTI tasks carried out were three visible light imaging sessions of a set of jewellery and pottery pieces from the Ghajn Klieb and Ghajn Qajjet excavations, and the capture of some graffiti and wall features in situ at Fort Delimara. Finally, a secure and interactive RTI online viewer is being developed in-house. This will eventually allow conservators, curators and clients to access remotely RTI outputs, giving the viewer the possibility to virtually change the light direction at its discretion, simply using the mouse cursor or moving their tablet device, revealing details difficult to view to the naked eye.

In 2022 the Digitisation Unit took over Web services for the Agency. This covers maintenance of existing websites and creating new ones, such as continuous updates to the new MUZA website, the creation from scratch of a new website for HM's exclusive venues, the Getty Old Masters website, and a new tenders website for the procurement department. The Digitisation Unit has also been tasked with taking over the new HM website, implement a new online shop system integrated with the ticketing system, and support all web help tickets submitted by different departments. An eID login system has been integrated into the HM website allowing anyone with an eID to login specific protected areas of the site. The HM website has been connected to a new electronic payment gateway – Stripe which has resulted in significant improvement in payment processing.

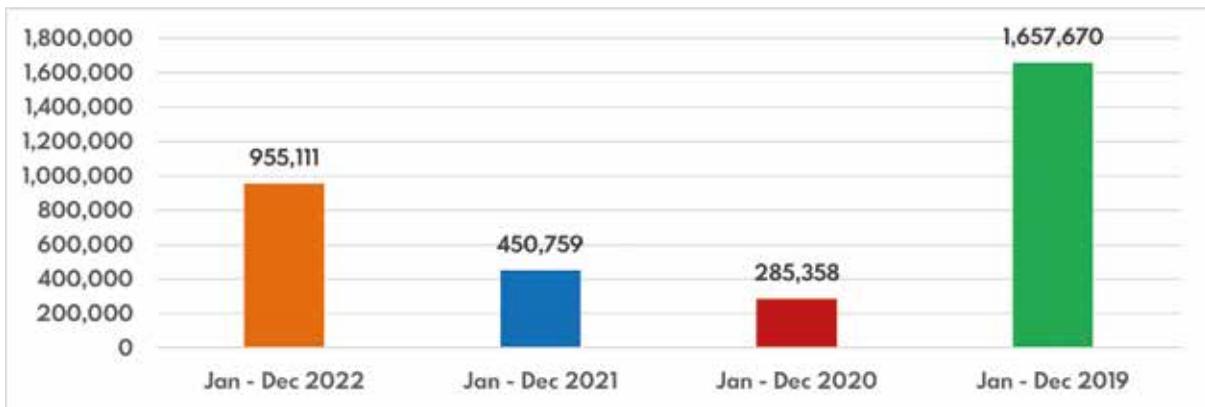


STATISTICS

## General overview

### Paying visitors

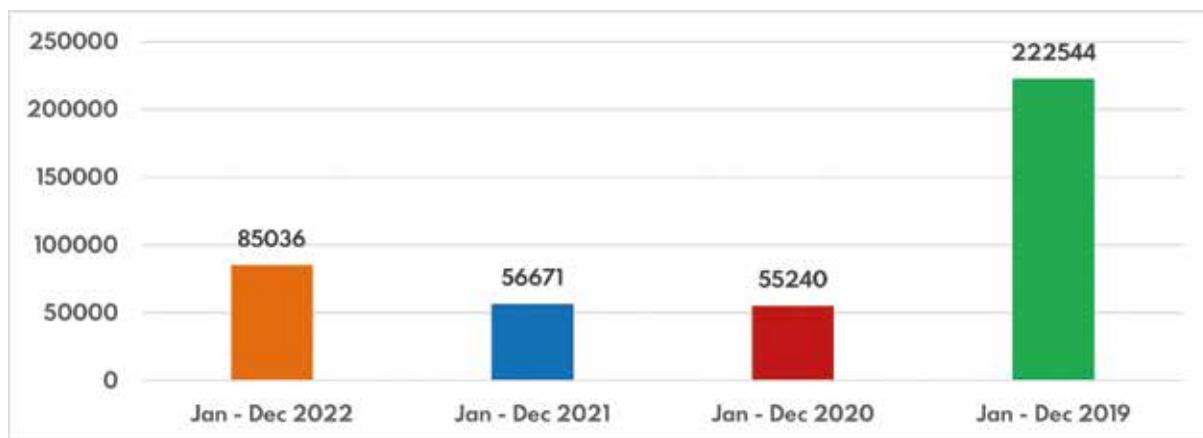
HM doubled its number of paying visitors this year when compared to 2021. In numerical terms, the Agency increased its admissions by more than half a million walk-ins. However, the number of entrances remain far less than pre COVID-19 levels. During the last three years, the number of paying admissions stood at 955,111 in 2022 decreased to 285,358 in 2020 increased to 450,759 in 2021, and 1,657,670 in 2019. Contrary to last year, most museums remained open throughout the year unless otherwise indicated<sup>1</sup>. On a macro level, positive developments took place in July, when most COVID-19 travelling restrictions were lifted. The number of tourists increased swiftly since then, and contributed to the eventual increase in the number of paying admissions. **Refer to Graph 1.**



Graph 1: The number of paying admissions 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

### Non-paying visitors

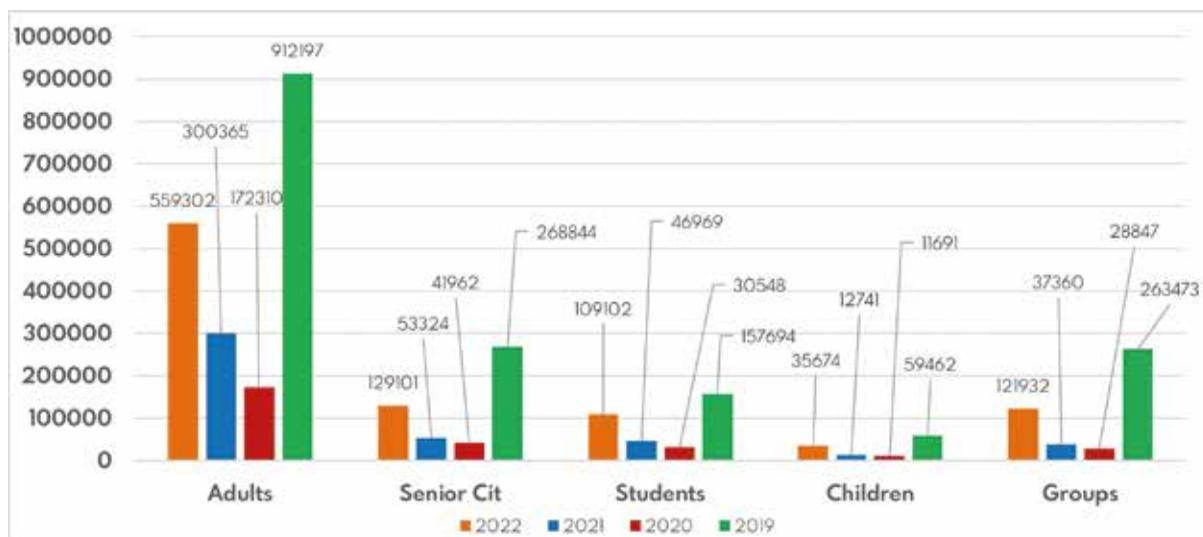
The number of non-paying visitors increased from fifty-six thousand to eighty-five thousand. Compared to last year, the number of visitors increased by 50%. However, when the same figures are compared to pre-Covid levels, the number of non-paying entries remain short by 61%. During the last four years, the number of non-paying admissions plummeted from 222,544 in 2019 to 55,240 in 2020. The number of admissions went up from 56,671 in 2021 to 85,036 in 2022. From a total of 85,000 free walk-ins, visits arising through the student passport scheme exceeded 27,000, whereas the senior passport scheme lured over 7,000 visitors. Organised school visits totaled 10,850 educators and students. **Refer to Graph 2.**



Graph 2: Non - Paying Visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

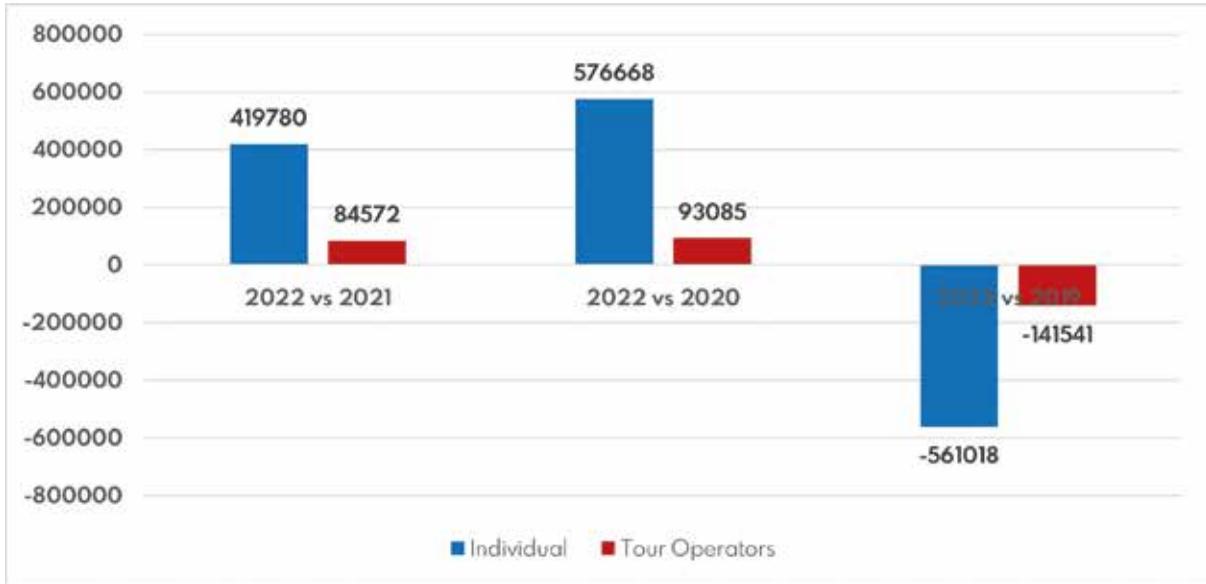
**Market segmentation: Individual admissions and tour operator admissions**

A closer statistical analysis reveals that all categories of paying visitors soared by an average of 153.32% when compared to 2021. A sharp increase in group entries of 226.37% has been registered. Another substantial increase of 179.99% was noted among children. Throughout the same period the number of students surged by 132.29% over 2021. Seniors withstood a similar increase, while the adult category recorded the smallest increase from all categories. Segmentation analysis reveals signs of recovery, however the number of admissions across all categories remain considerably lower than pre-pandemic levels. **Refer to Graph 3.**



Graph 3: Paying admissions segmented into five main categories 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Compared with 2021 figures, the number of individual visitors in 2022 increased by 419,780, while tour operator admissions saw an increase of 84,572. Compared with COVID-19 pandemic levels, individual paying admissions unprecedently decreased by 561,018, while tour operators dwindled by a total of 141,541 visitors. **Refer to Graph 4.**

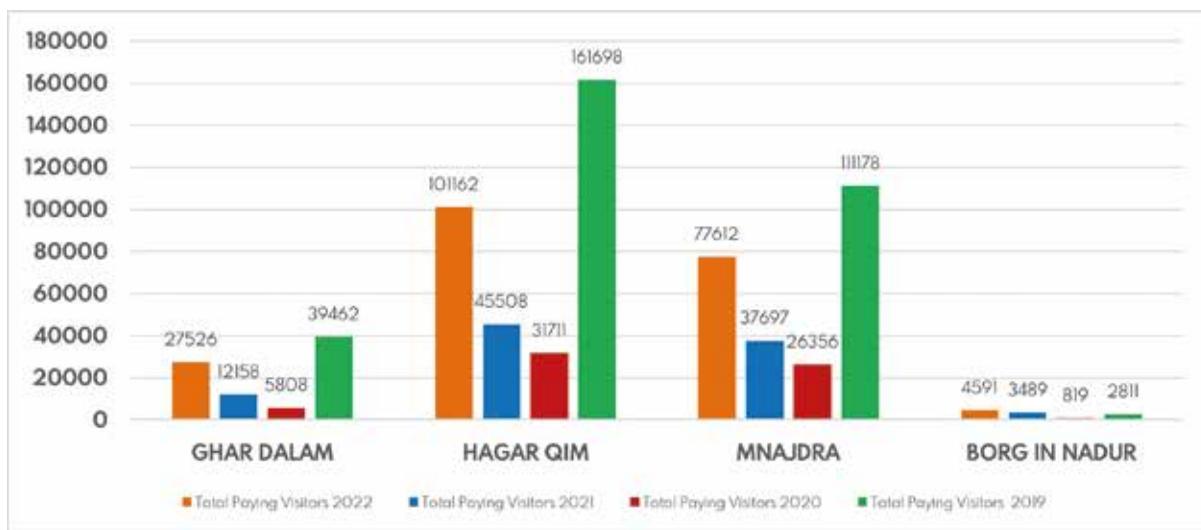


Graph 4: Changes in the number of paying admissions split by individual visitors and tour operator admissions between 2022 vs 2021; 2022 vs 2020; 2022 vs 2019

## Regional statistics

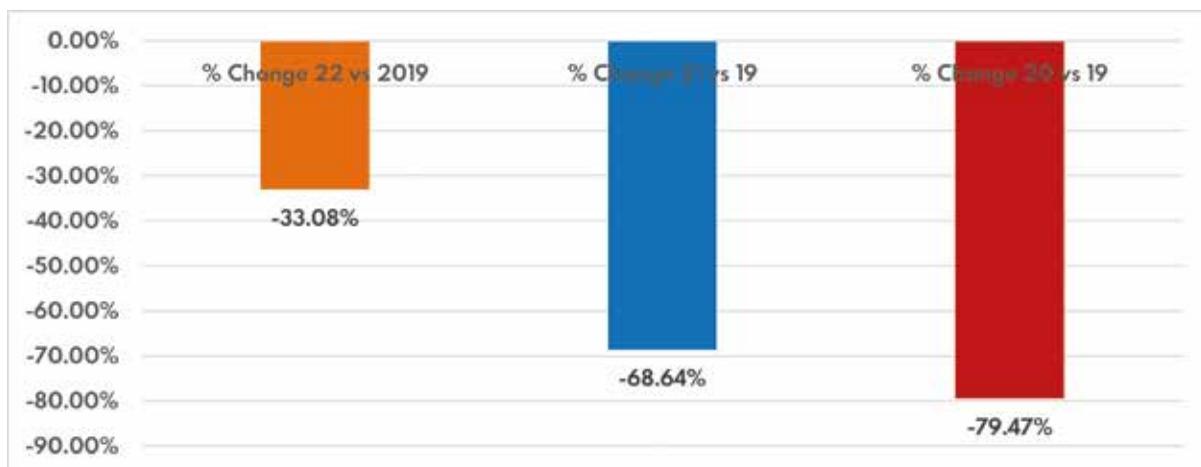
### Southern region

Total paying visitors amounted to 210,891. Assessed with 2021, the global number of paying admissions in the region rose by a further 112,000. Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra and Għar Dalam doubled visitors over a twelve-month period. Nevertheless, when the same figures are examined with pre-pandemic levels, there is an average shortfall of 30%. Simultaneously, Borġ in-Nadur recorded a surge in the number of entries, albeit at a slower rate. From 2019 to 2022 the site recorded a positive trend in the paying admissions. **Refer to Graph 5 & Annex 1.**



Graph 5: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the southern region

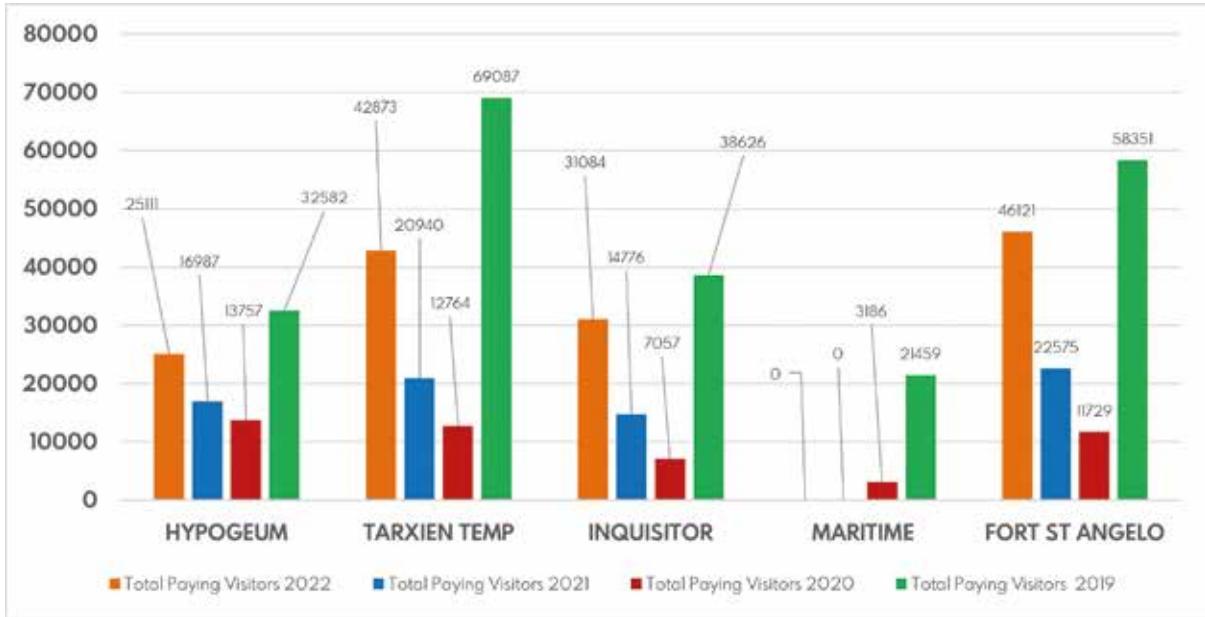
Globally, the southern region seems to be gradually recovering from the loss of visitors due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The biggest losses in the number of admissions were recorded between 2019 and 2020, at the height of the pandemic. During the last twelve months COVID-19 travelling restrictions have been lifted. Inbound tourism started to show signs of immediate recovery. Sites located in the southern region have also shown signs of rapid recovery after the restrictions were relaxed. **Refer to Graph 5A**



Graph 5A: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the southern region

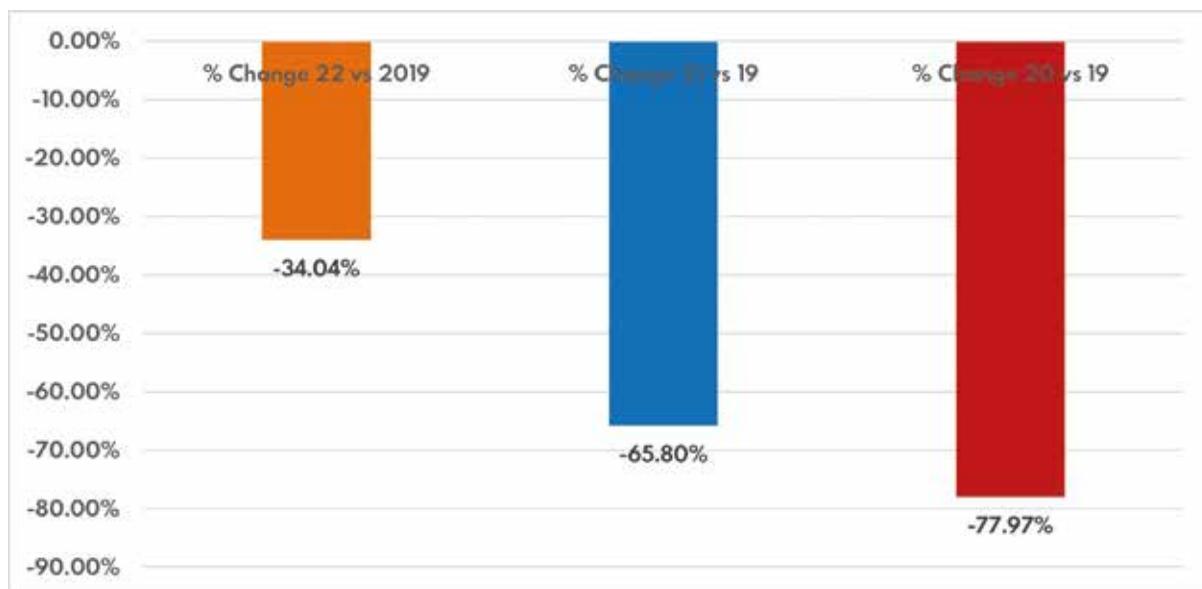
### Paola, Tarxien and Cottonera Region

Regional sites in Cottonera, Paola and Tarxien have strengthened their position. All sites, except for the Hypogeum, managed to double visitor numbers over the previous year. Percentagewise, the Inquisitor’s Palace recorded the biggest increase, followed by Fort St Angelo and Tarxien temples. The Malta Maritime Museum closed its doors to the public in March 2020 due to structural works being carried out on site, and is still closed. **Refer to Graph 6 & Annex 1.**



Graph 6: Total Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Paola, Tarxien and Cottonera region

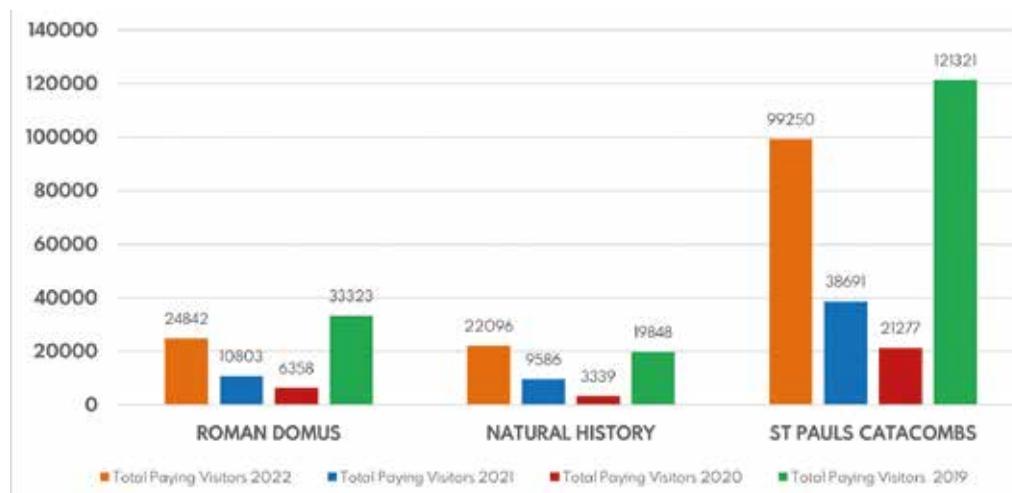
Cumulatively, the Cottonera, Tarxien and Paola region have also recorded a gradual increase in paying admissions which is slowly converging closer to the number of admissions prior to COVID-19. Losses of material nature were logged between 2019-2020 & 2021. In the first year of the pandemic, total paying entrances dwindled by 171,000. With the lifting of travelling restrictions, the region started to show signs of rapid recovery. Compared to pre-pandemic levels, the number of visitors remained with a gap of -34%, **Refer to Graph 6A & Annex 1.**



Graph 6A: Total Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the region of Cottonera, Paola and Tarxien region

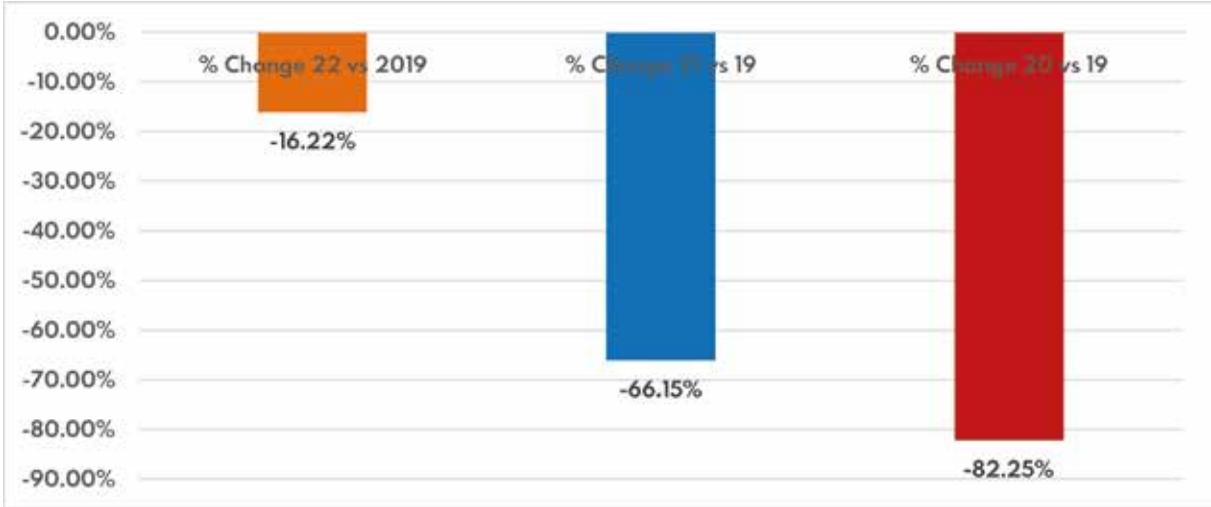
### Rabat Region

Numerically, St Paul’s Catacombs registered a significant increase in the number of walk-ins. Between 2022 and 2021, St Paul’s Catacombs almost tripled its paying entrances. The National Museum of Natural History surpassed pre-pandemic levels, as the visitors went up from 19,000 to 22,000 visitors. The Domvs Romana has registered positive results too, as the number of admissions doubled over the same period of the previous year. Nevertheless, the number of admissions logged in St Paul’s Catacombs and the Domvs Romana remains below pre-pandemic levels. **Refer to Graph 7 & Annex 1.**



Graph 7: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Rabat/Mdina region

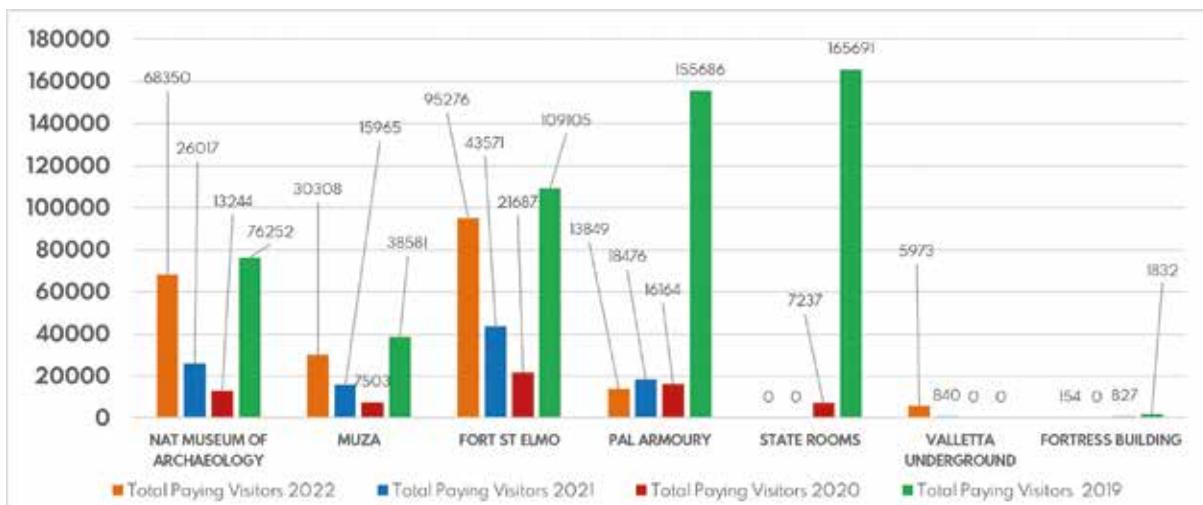
Comprehensively, the Rabat region seems to be showing signs of fast and robust recovery. Official data shows a shrinking disparity between pre-pandemic figures and 2022 levels. All sites managed to converge the gap close to -16%. Surplus visitors were recorded at the National Museum of Natural History which has contributed positively to narrow the disparity. Moreover, St Paul’s Catacombs, the largest site in terms of paying admissions, logged significant results which also impacted positively on the region’s overall performance. Meanwhile the Domvs Romana managed to recover 75% of its pre-pandemic visitors. **Refer to Graph 7A**



Graph 7A: Total paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in Rabat/Mdina region

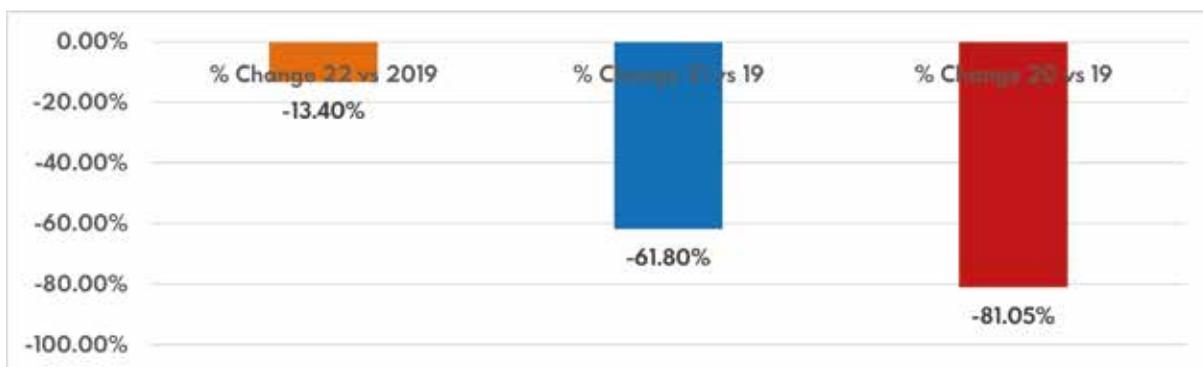
### Valletta Region

In 2022, the National Museum of Archaeology, MUZA and Fort St Elmo, emerged relatively stronger than the previous year. In Fort St Elmo paying visitors shot up from 43,000 in 2021 to 95,000 in 2022. Another staggering increase was registered at the National Museum of Archaeology. At first glance, it increased paying visitors from 26,000 in 2021 to 68,000 this year. A two-fold increase has been recorded in MUZA, with an additional fifteen thousand visitors. The Palace Armoury and State Rooms are currently closed due to a major project. Within this context, no analysis can be done. In November 2021, HM opened the Valletta Underground. Over a span of twelve months, the number of visitors peaked to 6,000 annually. The Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre reopened in quarter 4 whereby less than 200 visitors have visited the site since then. **Refer to Graph 8 & Annex 1.**



Graph 8: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Valletta Region

For the purpose of analysing regional data correctly, the Grand Master’s Palace, Valletta Underground and the Fortress Builders have been opted out for the reasons specified earlier. During the period under review, the number of visitors nearly bridged the disparity between the number of admissions recorded in 2022 and pre-COVID-19. Graph 8A clearly depicts gradual modest recovery between 2020 and 2021, while in 2022, the sites mentioned above emerged stronger by attracting thousands of additional visitors. Official data shows that MUZA, Fort St Elmo and the National Museum of Archaeology lured over 193,000 visitors, whereas in 2019 the number of visitors was 223,000. Refer to Graph 8A.



Graph 8A: Total paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in Valletta region excluding the Palace, Fortress Builders and Valletta Underground

## Xagħra Region and Citadel Sites

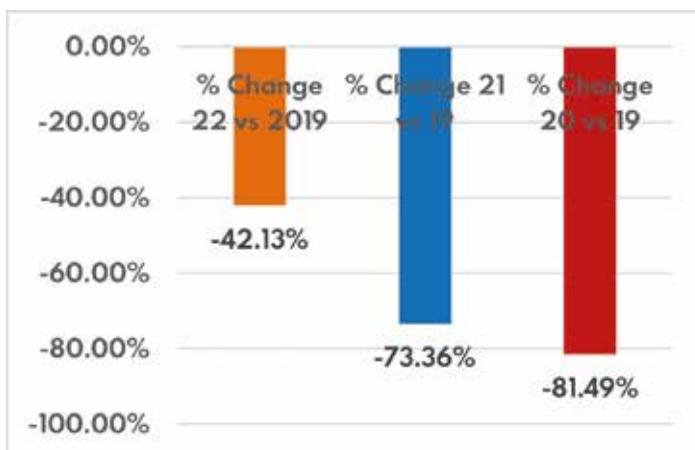
In 2022, all HM sites in Gozo have shown signs of improvement. Ġgantija by far remains the largest site in terms of paying visitors. The number of paying entries reached over 117,000 visitors. Compared to last year, the number of walk-ins to Ġgantija soared up by 65,000. Likewise, Ta' Kola Windmill saw a sharp increase of 83.88% in paying entrances. **Refer to Graph 9 & Annex 1**

Meanwhile, even the museums in the Citadel have ended in positive territory, recording a three-digit increase (110%) when compared to the same period last year. Percentage-wise, the Gozo Nature Museum recorded the boldest increase, followed by the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. Good results were also obtained at the Gozo Old Prisons and the Gran Castello Historic House, an increase of 103% and 104% respectively. **Refer to Graph 9**

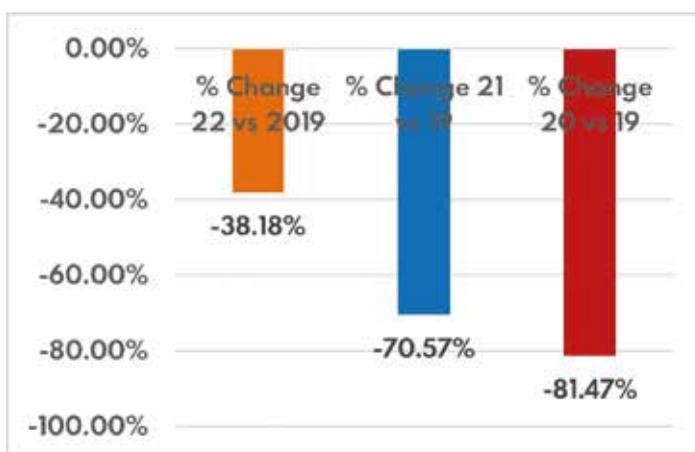


Graph 9: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 in the Xagħra Region and Citadel sites

Generally, sites in Gozo followed a similar pattern to Malta. At the height of the pandemic, Gozo sites lost an average of 80%. In 2021 a modest recovery was noted, albeit at a very slow rate. After the COVID-19 travelling restrictions were lifted, the majority of Gozo sites recovered back an average of 60% of visitors. However, the recovery in Gozo is taking a slower pace, since it is characterised by two main factors which are negatively impacting the pace of the recovery. Annually, Ġgantija lures half of its visitors through tour operators. Given that it is heavily dependent on group entries, recovery will take longer than any other site. While groups admissions are gradually improving, the path to recovery is not robust enough to reverse the negative trend. Furthermore, Ġgantija is predominantly the largest site across the region. Therefore, an adverse external shock such as COVID-19 would adversely impact the entire regional statistics. **Refer to Graph 9A & 9B.**



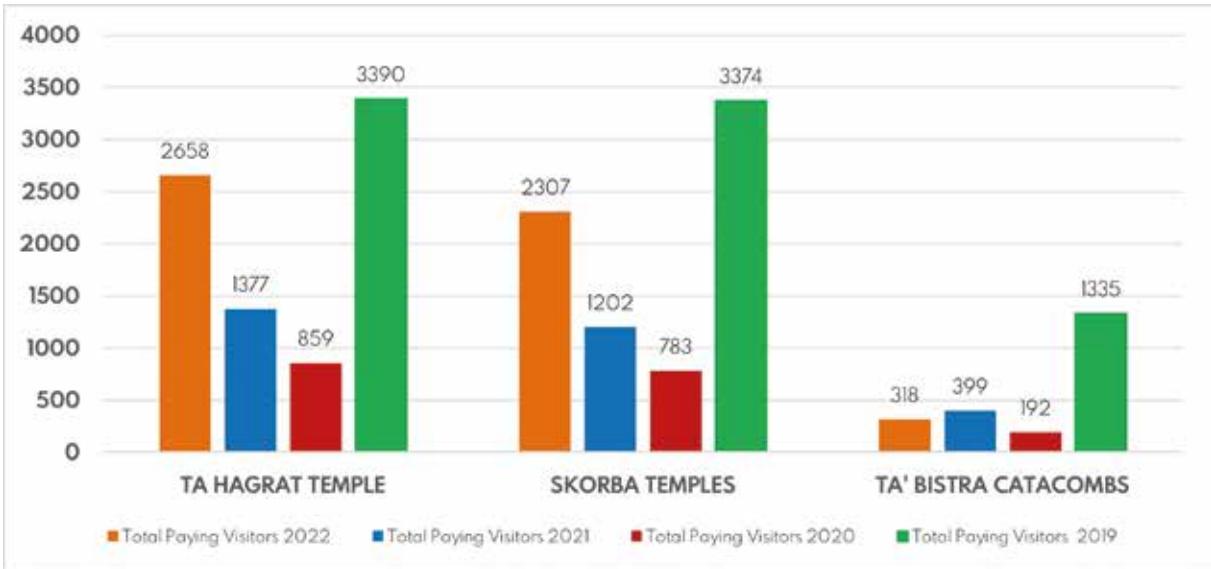
Graph 9A: Total paying visitors Xaghra Region



Graph 9B: Total paying visitors Citadel Sites

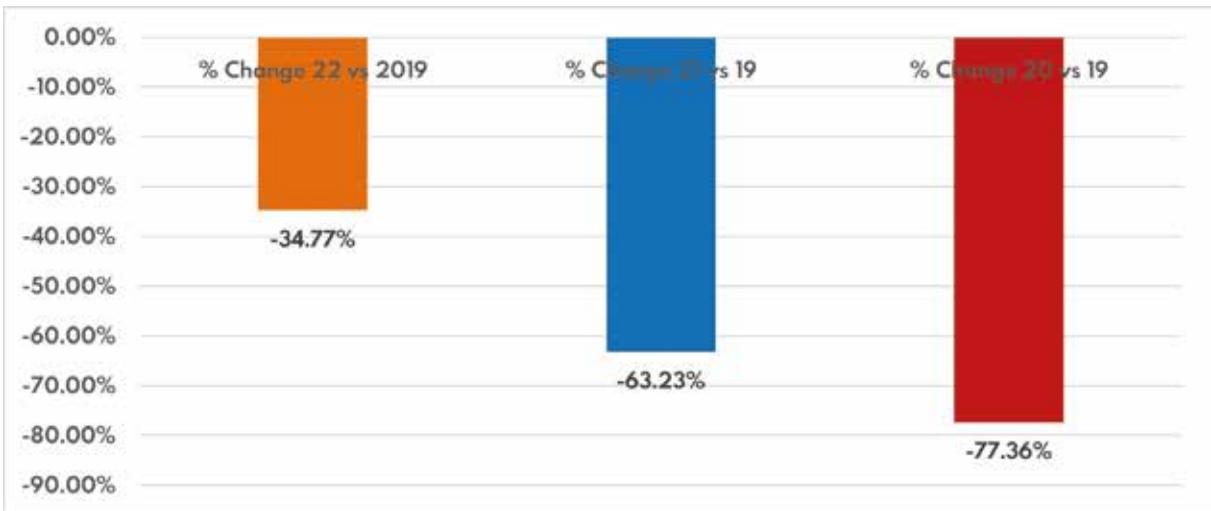
### Small sites

In 2022 Skorba and Ta' Hagarat temples registered positive results. Both doubled the number of walk-ins. Ta' Hagarat benefited mostly, although Skorba also recorded gains of similar nature. In total, both sites attracted not more than 5,000 visitors, reflecting an overall increase of 92.5% compared to the previous year. Ta' Bistra catacombs reopened to the public in October. It is opening on the last Sunday of every month. Ta' Bistra recorded a marginal decrease, as paying visitors dwindled from 399 in 2021 to 318 in 2022. The site was closed in 2021, however in May 2021 an open day was organised in which admissions were against payment or a donation. **Refer to Graph 10 & Annex 1.**



Graph 10: Paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 – Small sites

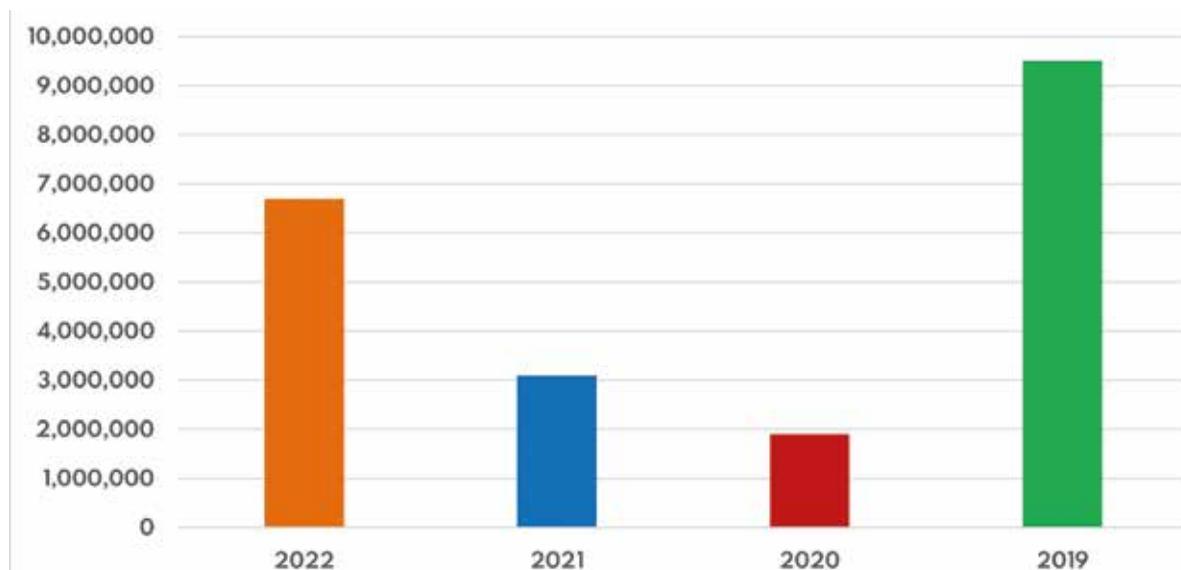
With the arrival of COVID-19, the above-mentioned sites were impacted negatively. A closer look at the official statistics reveals that in the first year of the pandemic Skorba, Ta' Ħagrāt and Ta' Bistra reduced paying admission by 77%. The following year the discrepancy converged to -63%. Skorba & Ta' Ħagrāt together contributed towards closing the disparity between 2022 admissions and pre COVID-19 admissions, which at end 2022 stood in the region of -34%. **Refer to Graph 10 A**



Graph 10 A: Total paying visitors 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019 - Small sites

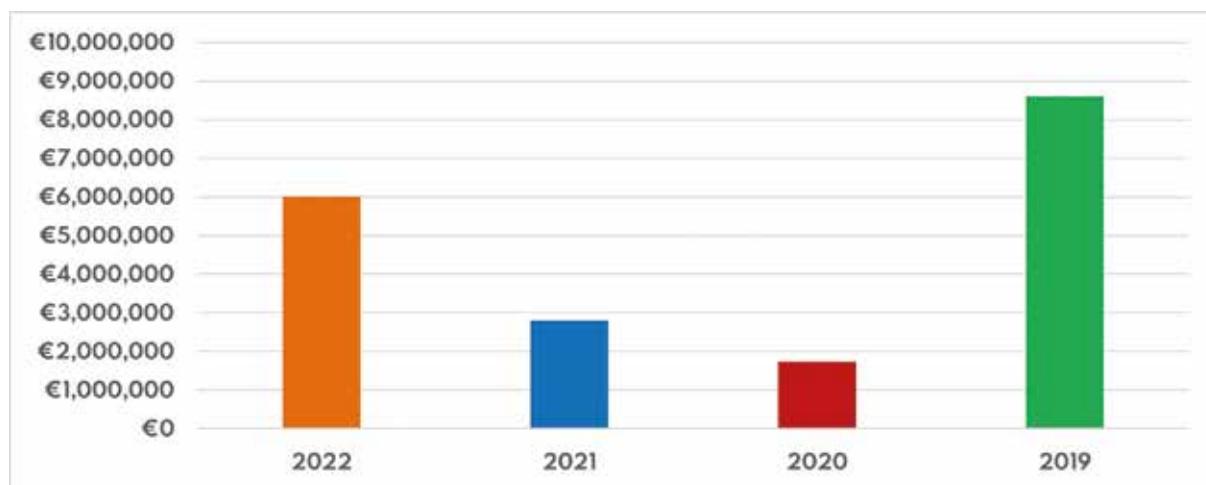
## Revenue analysis and sales segmentation

HM's financial income is composed of four main streams of revenue, namely entrance fees, the sale of publications, merchandise and food. As at 31 December, the Agency's income stood at €6.7 million.<sup>2</sup> The total amount of income generated soared from €3.2 million to €6.7 million. Prior to COVID-19 the total revenue reached €9.5 million. During the last four years revenue dwindled down to €1.9 million in 2020 and partially recovered to €3.2 million in 2021. Despite significant improvements, the total revenue generated in 2022 still stands at -30% when compared to 2019 levels. **Refer to Graph 11**



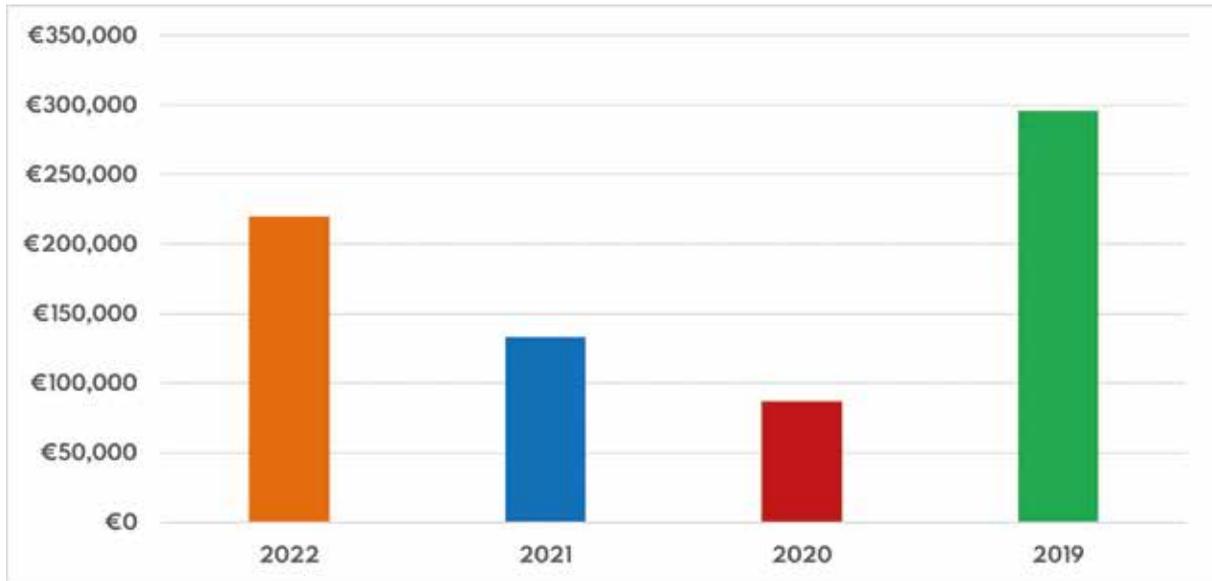
Graph 11: HM's revenue 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Entrance fees comprise the biggest share of revenue. By end December 89% of HM's revenue was generated through tickets sales. In 2022 HM generated €6 million in entrance fees, while in 2021 the number of tickets sold amounted to €2.8 million. €1.9 million worth of ticket sales were recorded in 2020. Record tickets sales were registered in 2019 with a total sales of €8.6 million. **Refer to Graph 12**



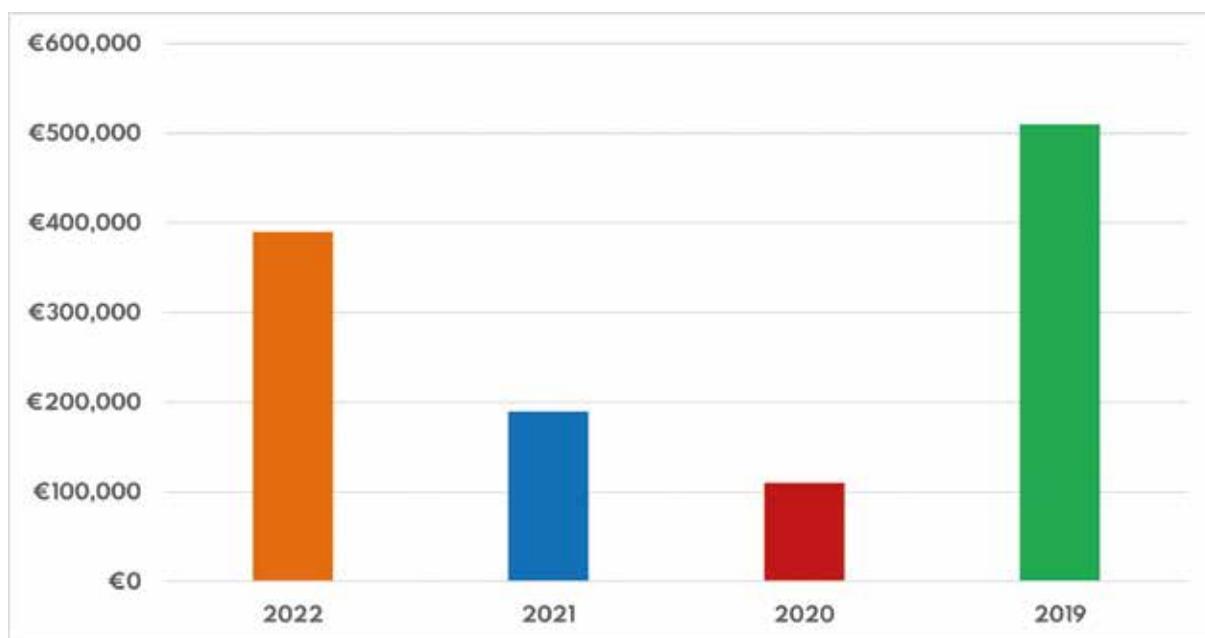
Graph 12: Entrance fees: 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Sales of publications represent a tiny stream of revenue amounting to 3.25%. As opposed to the previous year, publication sales went up from €133,000 to €220,000, a major upward shift of 65%, amounting to €86,000. Compared to pre-pandemic levels, the current publication sales are still lower by 25%. **Refer to Graph 13**



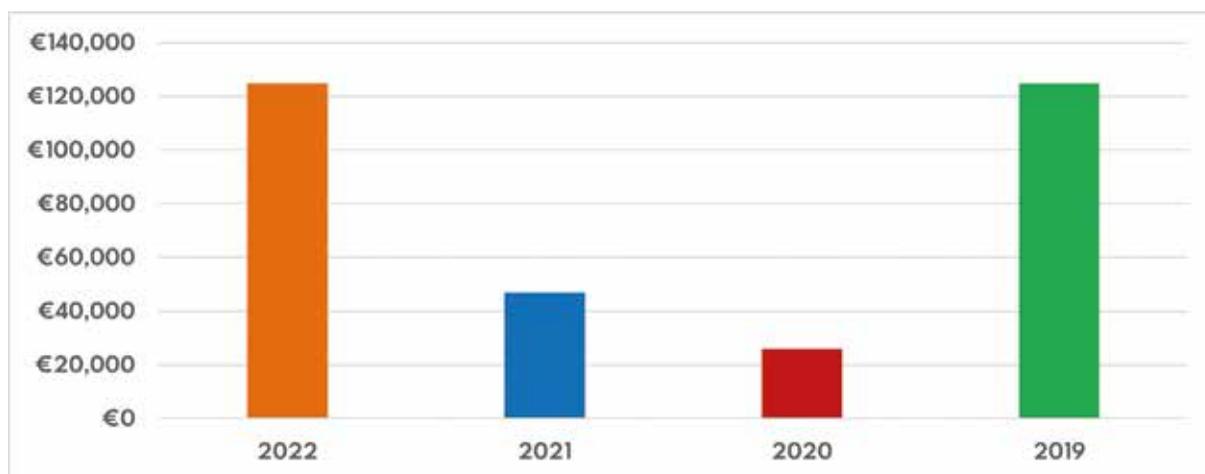
Graph 13: Revenue from publications 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Throughout the previous four years, sales originating from merchandise exhibited a U-pattern, as shown in Graphs 12 and 13 respectively. Due to COVID-19 merchandise sales dipped to a record low of €110,000 in 2020. The following year sales reached €190,000. Compared to 2020, merchandise sales in 2021 increased by €80,000, which represent an increase of 72.7%. Merchandise sales comprise of 5.84% of the total revenue streams. **Refer to Graph 14**



Graph 14: Revenue from merchandise 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

Food and beverages sales have shown indications of full recovery. This year HM's shops generated €125,000. The current level of sales has surpassed pre-COVID-19 levels. The segment of food and beverages embodied the smallest fraction among the total revenue streams, representing a meagre 1.8% of the total sales. In the last three years, sales have been recovering, going up from €26,000 in 2020, to €47,000 in 2021, and reaching a new record of €125,000 in 2022. **Refer to Graph 15**

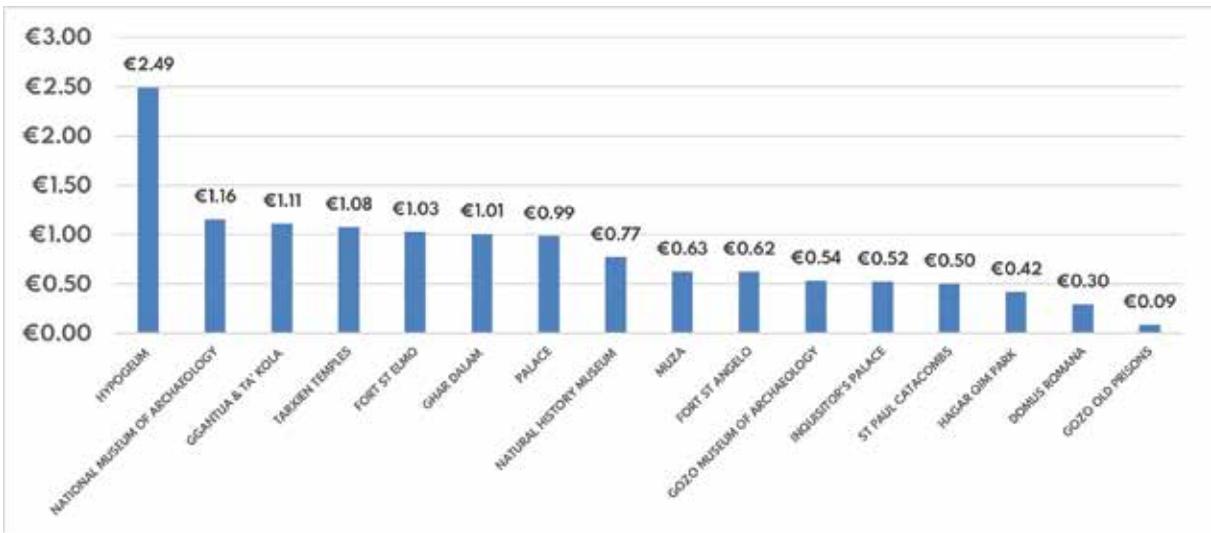


Graph 15: Revenue from food and beverages sales 2022 vs 2021 vs 2020 vs 2019

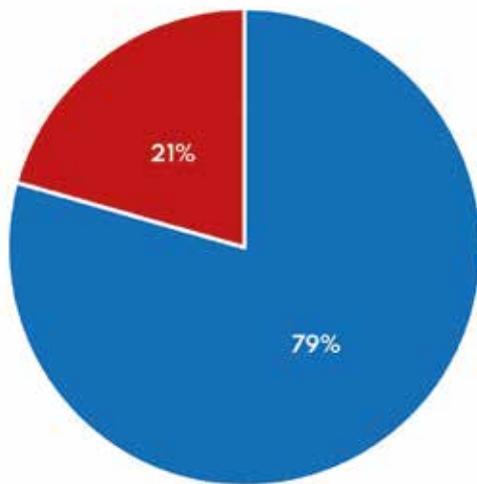
### Shop sales per capita analysis

Ġgantija generated the highest share of sales volume in 2022, driven mainly by the soaring number of visitors. Simultaneously, Fort St Elmo and the National Museum of Archaeology exceeded €75,000 sales annually. Meanwhile, the Gozo Old prisons generated not more than €3,000 worth of shop turnover. **Refer to Annex II.**

The Hypogeum has the highest per capita spending, while the National Museum of Archaeology and Tarxien temples posted the second higher shop spending per person among all shops. Median capita spending tallied at MUŻA and Fort St Angelo, whereas the lowest spending per person has been registered at the Gozo Old Prisons. **Refer to Graph 15 A.**



Graph 15 A: Gift shop sales per capita – 2022

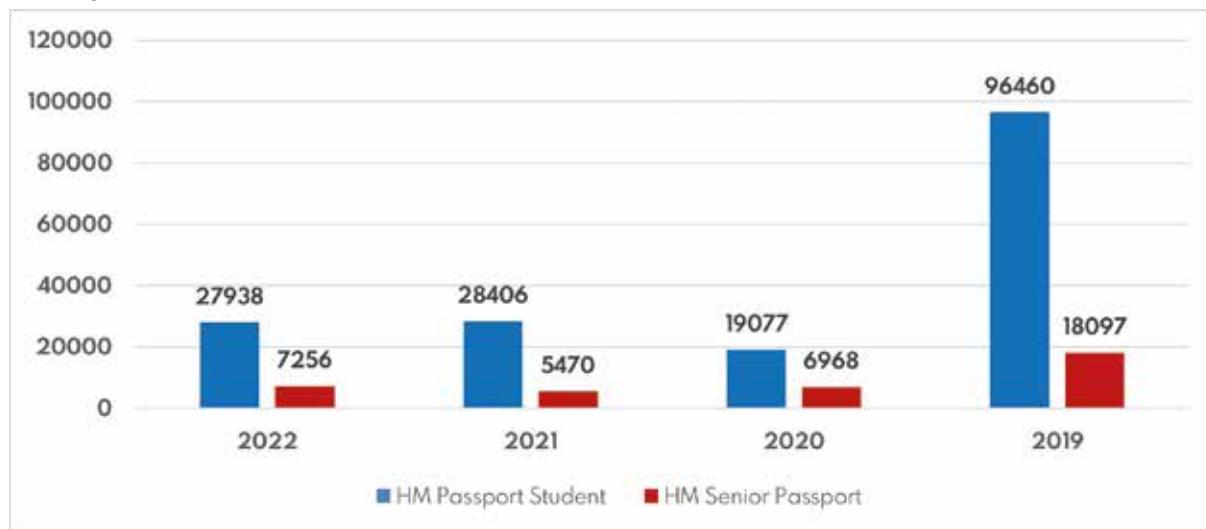


### The passport schemes

In 2022 the student and senior passport schemes attracted a total of 35,194 visitors. 21% were elderly utilising the senior passport, while 79% used the student scheme. In numeric terms, visitors using the school passport amounted to 27,000. Throughout the same period, Senior Passport holders tallied at 7,000. **Refer to Graph 16**

Graph 16: Share of visits split by attribution to the student passport and Senior Passport schemes – 2022

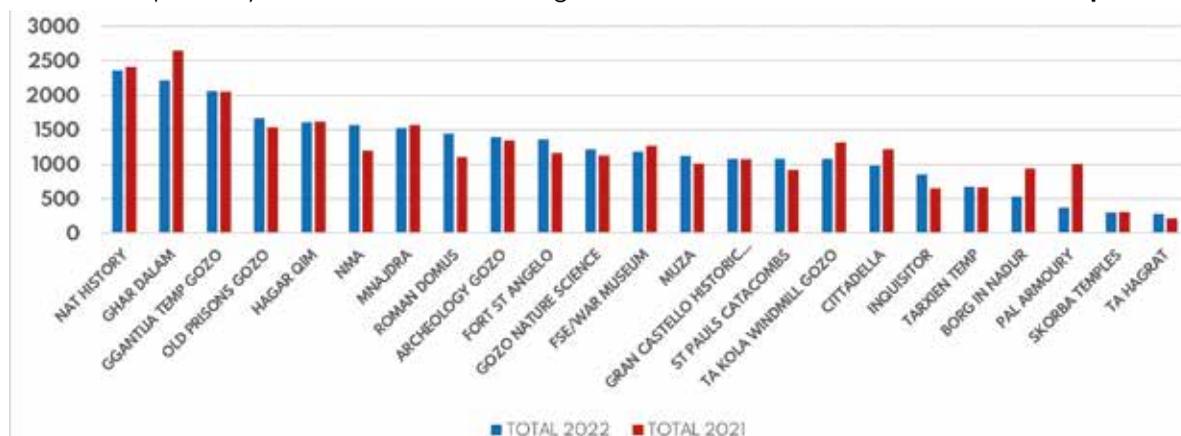
Official figures show that in the last four years since the implementation of both schemes, the number of visits seems to be normalising to their natural levels. In the first year of operation, both schemes landed 114,000 visitors. At the height of the pandemic, student visits plummeted by 80%. Simultaneously, the number of visits through the Senior Passport dwindled by 61%. It is interesting to note that the visits through the Senior Passport increased from 5,400 in 2021 to 7,200 this year. With reference to student passports, the number of walk-ins decreased trivially compared to the previous year. **Refer to Graph 16 A**



Graph 16A: The number of visits through Student and Senior Passports 2022-2019

### The Student Passport Scheme

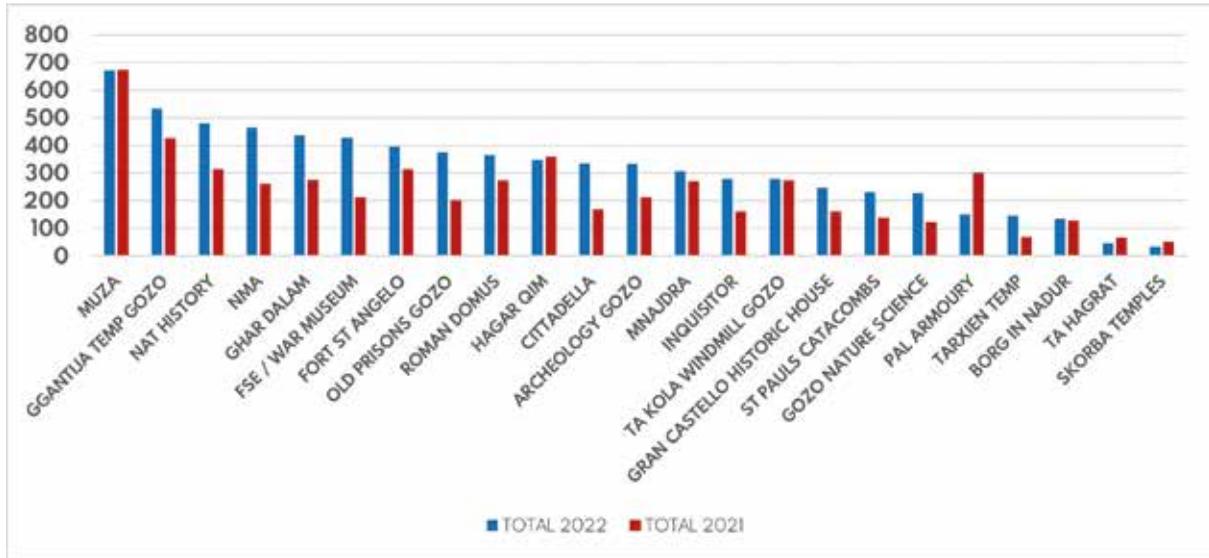
The National Museum of Natural History, Għar Dalam, Ġgantija, the Gozo Old Prisons and Haġar Qim ranked the five most popular sites among student passport holders. A total of 2,060 student passport holders visited the National Museum of Natural History. Għar Dalam saw a decrease of 16% compared with 2021. The National Museum of Archaeology, the Domvs Romana, Fort St Angelo, St Paul Catacombs and the Inquisitor’s Palace recorded an increase of 30.38%, 31.01%, 17.05%, 17.74% & 31.19% respectively. Both Skorba and Ta’ Haġrat were the least visited sites. **Refer to Graph 17**



Graph 17: The number of elderly visits using the Student Passport scheme in 2022 per site

## The Senior Passport

The Senior Passport registered positive results during the year under review. Yearly figures reveal an upward shift of 33% over the previous year. MUŻA ranked the highest among Senior Passport holders. Ggantija posted a 25% increase compared with 2021. Good results were also noted at the National Museum of Natural History, the National Museum of Archaeology, Għar Dalam, Fort St Elmo and the Gozo Old Prisons. The Palace Armoury endured a sharp drop since it was mostly closed to the public due to the undergoing works. Tarxien Temples, Borg in-Nadur, Ta' Ħagrāt and Skorba recorded not more than 200 visitors individually. **Refer to Graph 18**



Graph 18: Visitors using the Senior Passport scheme in 2022

## Annex I

| SOUTHERN AREA | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|---------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| GĦAR DALAM    | 27526                         | 12158                         | 5808                          | 39462                         |
| HAGĦAR QIM    | 101162                        | 45508                         | 31711                         | 161698                        |
| MNAJDRA       | 77612                         | 37697                         | 26356                         | 111178                        |
| BORĠ IN-NADUR | 4591                          | 3489                          | 819                           | 2811                          |

| POALA & TARXIEN | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HYPOGEUM        | 25111                         | 16987                         | 13757                         | 32582                         |
| TARXIEN TEMPLES | 42873                         | 20940                         | 12764                         | 69087                         |

| VITTORIOSA            | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| INQUISITOR'S PALACE   | 31084                         | 14776                         | 7057                          | 38626                         |
| MALTA MARITIME MUSEUM | 0                             | 0                             | 3186                          | 21459                         |
| FORT ST ANGELO        | 46121                         | 22575                         | 11729                         | 58351                         |

| RABAT                              | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DOMVS ROMANA                       | 24842                         | 10803                         | 6358                          | 33323                         |
| NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY | 22096                         | 9586                          | 3339                          | 19848                         |
| ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS                | 99250                         | 38691                         | 21277                         | 121321                        |

| VALLETTA                       | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY | 68350                         | 26017                         | 13244                         | 76252                         |
| MUŻA                           | 30308                         | 15965                         | 7503                          | 38581                         |
| FORT ST ELMO                   | 95276                         | 43571                         | 21687                         | 109105                        |
| PALACE ARMOURY                 | 13849                         | 18476                         | 16164                         | 155686                        |
| PALACE STATE ROOMS             | 0                             | 0                             | 7237                          | 165691                        |
| VALLETTA UNDERGROUND           | 5973                          | 840                           | 0                             | 0                             |
| FORTRESS BUILDERS              | 154                           | 0                             | 827                           | 1832                          |

| XAGĦRA            | Total Paying Visitors<br>2022 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2021 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2020 | Total Paying Visitors<br>2019 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ĠGANTIJA TEMPLES  | 117571                        | 52650                         | 37253                         | 196472                        |
| TA' KOLA WINDMILL | 17601                         | 9573                          | 5968                          | 37087                         |

| CITADEL SITES                | Total Paying Visitors 2022 | Total Paying Visitors 2021 | Total Paying Visitors 2020 | Total Paying Visitors 2019 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| GRAN CASTELLO HISTORIC HOUSE | 20993                      | 10277                      | 6559                       | 32214                      |
| GOZO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY   | 25192                      | 11813                      | 7027                       | 39331                      |
| GOZO NATURE MUSEUM           | 17983                      | 7987                       | 6091                       | 33155                      |
| GOZO OLD PRISONS             | 34197                      | 16776                      | 9803                       | 54419                      |

| SMALL SITES          | Total Paying Visitors 2022 | Total Paying Visitors 2021 | Total Paying Visitors 2020 | Total Paying Visitors 2019 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| TA' HAĠRAT           | 2658                       | 1377                       | 859                        | 3390                       |
| SKORBA               | 2307                       | 1202                       | 783                        | 3374                       |
| TA' BISTRA CATACOMBS | 318                        | 399                        | 192                        | 1335                       |

## Annex 2\*

| SITE                               | SHOP SALES  |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| ĠGANTIJA & TA' KOLA                | €130,875.25 |
| FORT ST ELMO                       | €97,946.12  |
| NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY     | €79,115.18  |
| HAĠAR QIM PARK                     | €75,381.81  |
| HYPOGEUM                           | €62,574.27  |
| ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS                | €50,077.62  |
| TARXIEN TEMPLES                    | €46,205.48  |
| FORT ST ANGELO                     | €28,814.53  |
| GĦAR DALAM                         | €27,752.74  |
| MUŻA                               | €18,953.33  |
| NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY | €17,047.94  |
| INQUISITOR'S PALACE                | €16,303.87  |
| GRAND MASTER'S PALACE              | €13,641.47  |
| GOZO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY         | €13,482.47  |
| DOMVS ROMANA                       | €7,381.37   |
| GOZO OLD PRISONS                   | €3,021.97   |

\*Figures are provisional not official

## Endnotes

- 1 Between March-June 2020 & March-April 2021, all HM sites had to close due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2 Figures taken from Shireburn Financial Manager. Figures are provisional.





APPENDIX I  
CALENDAR OF  
EVENTS

## EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

3 December 2021 – 9 January: **Patrick Dalli, the Journey**, organised by the Valletta Cultural Agency, at the Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

17 March: **Artistic installation by Barbara Crawford** as part of a contemporary art collective in Gozo, at Ġgantija Temples.

1 April – 8 May: **Endless Thinking**, by Noel Attard, at MUŻA.

20 April – 1 June: **Let me be myself: The life story of Anne Frank**, organised by the Tayar Foundation for Jewish Heritage in Malta in collaboration with the Anne Frank House of Amsterdam, at Fort St Elmo.

29 April – 1 May: **Society for Scale Modellers annual exhibition**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 June – 24 July: **Connections**, by Alfred Camilleri, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

1 July – 7 August: **Perpetual motion**, video installation by Cyril Sancereau, at the Community Space, MUŻA.

12 August – 11 September: **Bellum in mundum**, exhibition of paintings by Tonio Mallia, at MUŻA.

14 November – 4 December: **Resilience – Thriving Through Adversity**, art exhibition of creative projects by *Aġenzija Sapport*, at Fort St Elmo.

## EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

3 December 2021 – 27 February: **Giorgio Preca ta' Malta (1909-1984): An International Artist with a Modern Spirit**, at MUŻA.

14 December 2021 – 27 February: **An Island in Transition 700–1700AD. The Archaeology of Medieval Gozo**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

13 – 27 September: **The Santa Marija convoy and the George Cross – 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, at the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo.

17 November – 4 December: **Commemorating Antoine Camilleri (1922-2005): A hundred years from his birth**, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

1 December – 8 January 2023: **The 12 Days of Christmas**, a small exhibition on the Christmas carol, at the National Museum of Natural History.

9 December – 8 January 2023: **100 years: Commemorating Frank Portelli's Art and Life**, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

## EXHIBITIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

16 August 2021 – 31 March: **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo** – an exhibition highlighting discoveries from this site, at the Malta National Aquarium, Qawra, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, the Malta International Airport and the Honor Frost Foundation.

2 March – 26 May: **Exhibition of the Majmuna Stone** at the Sharjah Museum of Islamic Civilisation at the United Arab Emirates.

6 April – 12 June: **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo** – an exhibition highlighting discoveries from this site, at the National Museum of Archaeology, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, the Malta International Airport and the Honor Frost Foundation.

20 June – 21 August: **Pots, people, places and science. The journey of the humble potsherd**, in collaboration with the University of Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

21 August – 8 January 2023: **Dumnikani fil-Palazz: Home and Temple 1942-1960**, in collaboration with the Dominican Convent of Birgu and the Kottonera Foundation, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

29 August – 30 October: **Meet the Phoenicians of Malta. Death rituals at Għajn Klieb and Għajn Qajjet, Rabat**, Espresso Exhibition in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the University of Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

1 October: **Akkwisti ta' Heritage Malta għall-Kollezzjoni Nazzjonali 2020-22**, in collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minister, at the Ambassadors Hall of the Auberge de Castile, for the Notte Bianca.

5–28 October: **An Island in Transition 700–1700AD. The Archaeology of Medieval Gozo**, at the Ministry for Gozo, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo.

3 November – 15 January 2023: **Honor Frost's Malta. A pioneer in the centre of the Mediterranean**, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Honor Frost Foundation and the Malta Tourism Authority, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

## EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

5 October 2021 – 13 February: **Tornaviaje. Iberoamerican art in Spain**, at the Museo Nacional del Prado, Madrid, Spain.

22 November 2021 – 22 February: **La Giuditta di Caravaggio e i suoi Interpreti**, at the Galleria Nazionale di Arte Antica, Palazzo Barberini, Rome.

14 December 2021 – 17 January: **The Streak, An Isabelle Borg Retrospective**, at Spazju Kreattiv

Centre for Creativity, St James Cavalier, Valletta.

18 December 2021 – 28 February: **Castelluccio, Ambiente, Commercio e Simboli nella Sicilia Sud Orientale**, at the Museo Archeologico Regionale Paolo Orsi, Siracusa, Sicily.

28 January – 30 April: **The Construction of Europe. History, Memory and Myth of Europeanness over 1000 Years**, as part of the European Digital Treasures Project, at the National Archives, Rabat.

24 June – 22 December: **Mare Furioso. Pirates et Corsaires en Mediterranee XVI-XIX Siecles**, at Musee de Bastia, Palais des Gouverneurs, Corsica, France.

30 June – 12 July: **Premju Ġieħ l-Artiġjanat Malti**, organised by the Malta Crafts Foundation at the Casino Maltese, Republic Street, Valletta.

2 July – 1 October: **Maioliche seicentesche di Gerace. Il ritorno da Malta dopo quattro secoli**, at the Museo Diocesano di Gerace, Reggio Calabria, Italy.

9 July – 9 October: **Dechiffrements – Les Ecritures du Monde**, at the Musee Champollion, Figeac, France.

14 – 16 October: **L'oltretomba – The night before the Aida**, at the Gozo Cathedral Museum, the Citadel, Gozo.

15 October: **Wirja tal-Arti mill-Bottega Camilleri Cauchi**, at the Fgura Local Council.

20 November – 12 February 2023: **Vittore Carpaccio: Master Storyteller of Renaissance Venice**, at the National Gallery of Art, Washington.

20 – 27 November: **Katarina Patruna tal-Belt Beland**, at the Għaqda Mużikali Beland, Żejtun.

25 November – 14 April 2023: **Women in WWII: Unseen and Unheard**, at the Storm Petrel Foundation, Attard.

3 – 11 December: **80 sena mill-mewt tas-Surmast Carlo Diacono**, at the Għaqda Mużikali Beland, Żejtun.

16 December – 8 January 2023: **Preseppi u Bambini**, at the Għaqda Mużikali Beland, Żejtun.

### LECTURES ORGANISED / HOSTED BY HM

15 March: **Gozo's medieval millennium**, a lecture on the Medieval Gozo exhibition by Nathaniel Cutajar, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

6 May: **Ecological fieldwork in the French Guiana Rain Forests (2011-19)**, by John J. Borg for the annual general meeting of the Geography Teachers Association, at the National Museum of Natural History.

17 June: **Fine tableware from the Auberge d'Auvergne**, by Nathaniel Cutajar and Christian Mifsud, at the National Museum of Archaeology, on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days.

7 October: **The Domvs Romana and Antonio Annetto Caruana**, by Jonathan Borg, Head of Heritage Planning and Restoration Monitoring at the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, at St Paul's Catacombs, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days.

14 October: **The Egyptian artefacts in the national collection**, by Sharon Sultana on the occasion of the Aida opera, at the Gozo Cathedral Museum.

26 October: **Why birds migrate twice a year**, by John J. Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

27 October: **Gozo an Island in Transition, 700 to 1700 AD; An exploration of Gozo's Medieval Heritage**, by Nathaniel Cutajar at the Ministry of Gozo.

2 November: **Unconventional Burials**, by Michelle Padovani, at St Paul's Catacombs.

23 November 2023: **Stories of the Auberge d'Italie. Faces, Facets and Façades**, by V. Burgassi, E. Buttigieg, C. Mifsud and V. Vanesio, at the Community Room, MUŻA.

2 December: **Climate change**, by Gabriel Aquilina and Nadine Farrugia from the Environment and Resources Authority, at the Ochre Hall, Haġar Qim.

## EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

13, 16, 18, 20-21 January: **Online presentation to Art teachers** on how HM museums and sites can be utilised during art sessions.

17-19 January: **Special activity on Roman food for seniors** attending Day Care Centres at St Paul's Catacombs.

27 January: Session on **Ġnien Dinja Waħda** for educators from Cospicua primary school, at Għar Dalam.

27 January: **Online session on the Holocaust Memorial Day** for history students of the San Ġorg Preca Hamrun secondary school.

1 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Naxxar primary school.

2 February: **Online presentation on classical architecture** to students of Naxxar primary school.

2,4 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Marsa primary school.

- 7 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Mgarr primary school.
- 7 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of Mqabba primary school.
- 8 February: Guided tours at the Domvs Romana, Haġar Qim, Tarxien Temples and Fort St Angelo as part of the **Culture on Wheels** activity.
- 8 February: **Online presentation on classical architecture** to students of St Aloysius College, Birkirkara.
- 8 February: **Online presentation on underwater cultural heritage** to students of St Paul's Bay primary school.
- 8 February: **Online presentation on the Holocaust** to students of St Aloysius College, Birkirkara.
- 8,9 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of Qormi San Ġorġ primary school.
- 9 February: **Guided tour of San Pawl Milqi** to students of St Paul's Bay primary school.
- 10 February: **Special opening of museums and sites** on the occasion of the feast of St Paul, including Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum; the National Museum of Archaeology; MUŻA; Fort St Angelo; Tarxien Temples; St Paul's Catacombs; Haġar Qim and Imnajdra; the Gozo Citadel sites and the Citadel Visitor Centre; Ġgantija and Ta' Kola Windmill.
- 11 February: **Online presentation on underwater cultural heritage** to students of Żebbuġ and Qormi primary school.
- 11 February: **Online presentations on the Hypogeum** to students of Żabbar and Qormi primary schools.
- 14 February: **Online presentations on Classical architecture** to students of Xewkija primary and Kirkop middle schools.
- 14 February: **Curatorial evening guided tour** on the occasion of Valentine's Day, at MUŻA.
- 14 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of St Paul's Missionary College, Rabat.
- 14 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Msida primary school.
- 15, 17 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of Żebbuġ primary school.
- 16 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Mosta primary school.
- 16 February: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of St Dorothy's School, Żebbuġ.
- 17 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Xewkija primary school.

- 18 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of Mgarr primary school.
- 18 February: **Online presentation on underwater cultural heritage** to students of Żebbuġ and Qormi primary schools.
- 18 February – 18 March: **Maltese balla lace course** to reproduce an 18th-century motif from the Cancellaria, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 19 February: **Guided tours of the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo** for the 'I Belong' group.
- 19 February: **Special tour of the Giorgio Preca exhibition for the hearing impaired**, at MUŻA.
- 21 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** to students of Baħrija primary school.
- 21 February: **Tour on fashion and textiles** for vocational students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 21, 22 February: **Online presentation on Classical architecture** for students of St Francis School, Sliema and Qormi primary school.
- 22 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Pembroke and Żabbar primary schools.
- 23 February: **Online presentation on Classical architecture** for students of Sliema primary school.
- 23 February: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of St Theresa School, Gozo.
- 24 February: **Online presentation on underwater cultural heritage** to students of Qawra and St Paul's Bay primary schools.
- 24 February: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of St Joseph School, Sliema.
- 25 February: **Online presentation on Remembrance Day** to students of Ghargħur and Mgarr primary schools.
- 25 February: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Baħrija primary school.
- 26 February: **Guided tours** of St Paul's Catacombs, Fort St Angelo, the Inquisitor's Palace and Haġar Qim to the 'I Belong' group.
- 28 February: **From scales to feathers**, an event on natural evolution, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 3 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of St Paul's Bay primary school at Ġnien Dinja Waħda, Għar Dalam.

- 3 March: **Workshop on basics of cross-stitch** to third year MCAST students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 4 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of De La Salle College at Ġnien Dinja Waħda, Għar Dalam.
- 7 March: ***Il-Malti fl-Istorja*** activity focusing on traditional clothes to students of San Ġorġ Preca College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 7 March: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Valletta primary school.
- 7 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Tarxien primary school.
- 8 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of Santa Monica primary school, Gżira at Ġnien Dinja Waħda, Għar Dalam.
- 9 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Żebbuġ primary school.
- 9 March: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of St Augustine's School, Pietà, and Mosta primary school.
- 10 March: **Workshop on basic stitches of Maltese lace** to third year MCAST students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 9, 23 March: ***Il-Malti fl-Istorja*** activity focusing on traditional clothes to students of Maria Regina College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 10 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of San Lawrenz primary school.
- 11 March: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Marsascala primary school.
- 11 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Valletta primary school.
- 13 March: A day of **guided tours of Fort Delimara**.
- 14, 24, 29 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of De La Salle College at Ġnien Dinja Waħda, Għar Dalam.
- 15 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Xagħra primary school.
- 15 March: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of Qawra primary school.
- 15, 18 March: **Online presentation on underwater cultural heritage** to students of Mosta primary schools.
- 16 March: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of Stella Maris College, Gżira.

16 March: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja** activity focusing on traditional clothes to students of San Nikola College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

16 March: **Online presentation on arms and armour** to students of Kerċem primary school.

17 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of St Paul's Bay primary school at Ġnien Dinja Wahda, Għar Dalam.

18 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of St Augustine's College, Pietà, and Marsascala primary school.

19 March: **Historical guided tour around Valletta.**

20 March: **Guided tours of the Spring Equinox**, at Mnajdra Temples.

21 March: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja** activity focusing on traditional clothes to students of St Ignatius College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 March: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of St Francis School, Cospicua, and Stella Maris College, Gżira.

22 March: **Thematic educational event on flora, fauna and ecosystems** for students of Birżebbuġa primary school at Ġnien Dinja Wahda, Għar Dalam.

23 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Żabbar and Fgura primary schools.

25 March: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of St Augustine's College, Pietà.

25 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Mosta primary school.

30 March: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of Stella Maris College, Gżira.

30 March: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of St Paul's Bay primary school.

30 March: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja** activity focusing on traditional clothes to students of Santa Margerita College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1, 4 April: **Online presentation on World War II** to students of Żabbar primary school.

4 April: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Mosta primary school.

6 April: **Presentation on the history of Valletta** for members of the Active Ageing community, at the Valletta Design Cluster.

8 April: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Marsascala primary school.

- 8 April: **Online presentation on Arms and Armour** for students of Birkirkara primary school.
- 8 April: **Online presentation on the *Dghajsa tal-Latini*** for students of Bahrija primary school.
- 8 April: **Guided tour for people suffering from ALS** as part of the Culture on Wheels programme, at the Domvs Romana and Fort St Angelo.
- 9 April: **Guided tour for the 'I Belong' group members**, at the National Museum of Archaeology and Fort St Elmo.
- 11-12, 28 April: **Trekking through nature and history at Għar Dalam** and Wied Żembaq, Birzebbuga, for students of Mosta and Kirkop Middle Schools.
- 12 April: **Activity on Good Friday and Easter traditions for people living with dementia**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 18 April: **Open day at the Main Guard** to view the current conservation works, on the occasion of UNESCO's International Day for Monuments and Sites.
- 18 April: **Activity on the work of Sir Temi Zammit**, part of the HM Student Passport programme, at Tarxien Temples.
- 19 April: **Activity on insect eggs**, part of the HM Student Passport programme, at Għar Dalam.
- 20 April: **Presentation on the Inquisition** for members of the Active Ageing community, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 20 April: **Student passport VISA activity**, guided tours at the Abbatija tad-Dejr.
- 22 April: **Explore, activity for people on the autism spectrum**, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 24 April: Open day with reduced admission fee to commemorate the **80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the George Cross**, including guided tours and re-enactments, at the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo.
- 25 April: **Online presentation on the Hypogeum** for students of Qawra and Sliema primary schools.
- 25 April: **Touch and tour, activity for people with visual impairments**, at Tarxien Temples.
- 26 April: **Online presentation on World War II** for students of Cospicua and Marsascala primary schools.
- 27 April: **Online presentation on World War II** for students of Xagħra primary school.
- 27 April: **Official inauguration** of the memorial in remembrance of the demise of the crew of the

submarine **HMS Urge**, by the President of Malta Dr George Vella, at Fort St Elmo.

28 April: **Online presentation on Underwater Cultural Heritage Sites** to students of Stella Maris primary school.

25-26, 29 April: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja**, activity focusing on traditional clothes, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

29 April: **Online presentation on World War II** for students of Rabat and Marsascala primary schools.

30 April: **Guided tour for the 'I Belong' group members**, at the National Museum of Archaeology and Fort St Elmo.

30 April: Viewing of the **Malta international fireworks festival** from Fort St Angelo.

1 May: **Re-enactment of the General Alarm of 1644** by Show of Arms, at Fort St Angelo.

4 May: **Trekking through nature and history at Għar Dalam** and Wied Żembaq, Birżebbuġa, for students of Kirkop Middle School.

6, 14 May: **Guided tour for people suffering from ALS** as part of the Culture on Wheels programme, at the Domvs Romana.

7, 28 May: **Guided tour for the 'I Belong' group members**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

7 May: **Guided tour for the 'I Belong' group members**, at Fort St Elmo.

14 May: **Cultural trail on fortified sites** for University students, from Tas-Silġ to Borġ in-Nadur.

15 May: Special opening and **guided tours of Kordin Temples**.

20 May: **Symbolic literacy educational workshop** at Fort St Angelo.

25, 30-31 May: **Viewing of the film 'The Malta Story'**, including a tour, for members of the active ageing community, at Fort St Angelo.

26 May: **Fashion and textiles workshop** focusing on traditional lace for students of the Żejtun secondary school, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26-27 May: **Official press launch of HM's new branding**, at Fort St Angelo, followed with activities for staff at Fort St Elmo.

27 May: **Quiz on the Maltese language** for students from various schools, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

28 May: **Guided tour for people suffering from ALS** as part of the Culture on Wheels programme, at Fort St Elmo.

30 May: **Fashion and textiles workshop** focusing on traditional lace for students of the Żejtun secondary school, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5 June: **Special open day of all Valletta museums** to celebrate HM's new branding, at Fort St Elmo, the National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA and the Grand Master's Palace.

6-7 June: **Guided tours, sleepover**, light snack and breakfast, at Ghar Dalam.

7 June: **Historical guided tour around Rabat and Mdina.**

9 June: **Press conference** on the recent purchase of land by HM at Borg in-Nadur.

10 June: **Sunset guided tour of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra**, the garrigue landscape and other historical features, at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra archaeological park.

11 June: **Guided tours of Fort St Elmo, MUŻA, the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo** for the 'I Belong' Group.

13 June: **Touch and Taste tour for people who suffer from visual impairments**, including tasting food and handling objects.

18 June: **Guided tours of the National Museum of Archaeology, Fort St Elmo and the Inquisitor's Palace** for the I Belong Group.

18 June: **Guided tour of the Domus Romana as a residence and a home**, including the ongoing excavations, on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days.

18 June: **Open day of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**, on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days.

20 June: Viewing of the **summer solstice** at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days.

21 June: **Memories of WWII, activity for people living with dementia**, including discussions on life during the war, at the National War Museum.

22 June: **Official launch of the HM Students Summer Programme**, at the National Museum of Natural History.

24 June: Exclusive sunset **guided tour of Villa Guardamangia** for HM members.

1 July: **Scales and Feathers**, educational programme on the transformation of dinosaurs into birds, at the National Museum of Natural History.

2-3 July: **The art of dyeing**, educational hands-on programme on the use of organic materials used to dye fabrics through history.

5 July: **Patch it up!**, educational programme on textiles and sewing skills, as part of the HM student summer programme, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6 July: **Neolithic art** educational programme, as part of the HM student summer programme, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

8 July: **Roman mosaics**, online activity as part of the HM student summer programme.

13 July: **War heroes**, online presentation for Pembroke primary Skolasajf students.

13 July: **Autism friendly spaces at HM**, online presentation delivered to the European Parliament.

14 July: **War heroes**, online presentation for Qawra primary Skolasajf students.

15 July: **Fortifying team-building day for HM employees**, including extensive cleaning and clearing of accretions, at Fort Delimara.

20 July: **War heroes**, guided tour for Birkirkara primary Skolasajf students, at Fort St Elmo.

19, 21 July: **Harbour cruises focusing on the Second World War** around the Grand and Marsamxett harbours, on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the George Cross.

21 July: **War heroes**, online presentation for Attard primary Skolasajf students.

26 July: **Sea turtles**, education programme on the marine environment as part of the HM student summer programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.

27 July: **War heroes**, online presentation for Birżebbuġa primary Skolasajf students.

28 July: **Il-Ftira**, workshop delivered by Dr Noel Buttigieg, inspired by the UNESCO intangible heritage inscription, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

29 July: Exclusive **evening tour of Borġ in-Nadur** for HM members.

3 August: **War heroes**, guided tour for Paola primary Skolasajf students, at Fort St Elmo.

4 August: **War heroes**, online presentation to Vittoriosa primary Skolasajf students.

5-6 August: **Texture and clay**, workshop with artist Victor Agius on the properties of clay, as part of the HM student summer programme, at Ġgantija Archaeological Park.

8 August: **Curiosities from the museum**, online activity as part of the HM student summer programme, focusing on objects from the Inquisitor's Palace.

10 August: **War heroes**, online presentation to Dingli primary Skolasajf students.

- 11 August: **War heroes**, online presentation to Fgura primary Skolasajf students.
- 14 August: **Guided boat tour around Filfla**, with special focus on its cultural and natural aspects.
- 23 August: **Official presentation of a collection of military ships postcards** by Dr Giovanni Bonello to HM, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 24 August: **War heroes**, guided tour for Mosta primary Skolasajf students, at Fort St Elmo.
- 25 August: **War heroes**, online presentation to Naxxar primary Skolasajf students.
- 27 August: Exclusive **virtual reality tour and lecture on the sunken submarine HMS Urge**, at Fort St Elmo, for HM members.
- 30 August: **Roman art**, education programme as part of the HM student summer programme, at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 1 September: **Cloth dyeing activity** as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 3 September: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, St Paul's Catacombs, the Domvs Romana and the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 4 September: **Guided boat tour around Filfla**, with special focus on its cultural and natural aspects.
- 6 September: **Art Spotlight** activity as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at MUŻA.
- 7 September: **Ready, Steady, Cook** activity as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 8 September: **Open day at Fort St Angelo** at a reduced admission fee, including the Upper Fort administered by the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, mass at the Chapel of the Nativity of the Virgin and in the Chapel of St Anne, a commemoration at the Victory of the Great Siege monument, Sea Cadets demonstration, historical displays and re-enactments, and viewing platform for the Regatta contest.
- 9 September: **The Complete History of Malta theatre production** by More or Less Theatre as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at Fort St Angelo.
- 10 September: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to Ghar Dalam, St Paul's Catacombs and the Domvs Romana.
- 15 September: **Walking Trail – In Between Haġar Qim and Mnajdra** as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at Haġar Qim.

15 September: **Harbour cruises focusing on the Second World War** around the Grand and Marsamxett harbours, on the occasion of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the award of the George Cross.

16 September: **Assemble and Paint** activity as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 September: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to St Paul's Catacombs, the Domvs Romana, Fort St Angelo and the Inquisitor's Palace.

19 September: **Guided tours of Tal-Pilar Church** for students holding a VISA as part of the HM Student Passport Programme.

19 September: **Student passport VISA** activity at Tal-Pilar Church.

20 September: **Treasure Box** activity at the HM Conservation Laboratories as part of the HM Passport Summer Programme.

20 September: **Activity focusing on Valletta** aimed at travelling youths, delivered with EUPA.

20 September: **Historical guided tour around Vittoriosa**, '*Mill-Collacchio sal-Kunventi*' including palaces, auberges, monasteries and convents, with Mario Coleiro.

20-21 September: **Guided tours of the Autumn Equinox**, at Mnajdra Temples.

21 September: **Back to the Origins on Independence Day**, guided tours and reduced admission price at Ghar Dalam and Borg in-Nadur.

24 September: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to St Paul's Catacombs.

24 September: **Our heritage in brushstrokes**, exclusive guided tour of the paintings' conservation laboratory for HM members.

30 September: Activity for school children as part of the **European Network of Holy Week and Easter** delivered at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 October: **Maltese Ftira and Coffee**, an activity aimed at people living with dementia, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 October: **Dark tales at Fort St Angelo** – tales of mystery and the supernatural, at Fort St Angelo.

7-8 October: Extended opening hours at a reduced admission for the **Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo**, including Dark Tales event at Fort St Angelo and the *Dumnikani fil-Palazz* exhibition at the Inquisitor's Palace, on the occasion of **Birgufest**.

- 8 October: Three curatorial tours at Gozo's Museum of Archaeology - **Let the Objects Speak: Revealing Gozo and its inhabitants under Carthaginian and Roman occupation**, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days.
- 8 October: **Open day with reduced admission at San Pawl Milqi**, including helping archaeologists with digging and bagging, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days.
- 8 October: **Cibvs: Roman Food Experience**, lecture on and tasting of typical Roman fare, at San Pawl Milqi, on the occasion of the European Heritage Days.
- 12 October: **Cloth dying activity** for senior students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 16 October: **Open day with free guided tours and re-enactments**, at Fort Delimara.
- 17-21 October: **Let's Keep Fit at Fort St Angelo** thematic activity focusing on physical activity, art and history, at Fort St Angelo.
- 20 October: **Presentation on dinosaurs** and their absence from Maltese fossil record to students from St Benild's School, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 21 October: **Talk on the history of Valletta**, delivered to senior citizens at the Valletta Design Cluster.
- 22 October: **University of Malta 'I Belong'** visit to Tarxien Temples.
- 23 October: **Special opening of Ta' Mintna Catacombs** on the occasion of Jum l-Imqabba.
- 25 October: **Neolithic Art activity** aimed at the visually impaired, at Haġar Qim visitor centre.
- 25-26 October: **Muża u Immaġinazzjoni** thematic activity aimed at Year 4 students at Tarxien Temples.
- 24, 27-28 October: **Tradizzjonijiet marbutin ma' Novembru** thematic activity aimed at Year 5 students at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 28 October: **L-Għid tal-Erwieħ; mill-Palazz għall-Kunvent**, traditional meal, guided tour and sleep-over, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 29 October: Special guided tour of the **'Shelter, Famine, Resistance: Life as a Civilian during the Second World War'**, exclusive for HM members, at the Valletta Underground.
- 31 October: **Guided tour for the Comic Con group** at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 1 November: **Poppies for Peace!**, commemorative event on the end of WWI as part of the HM Student Passport scheme, at Fort St Elmo.

2 November: Special **tour of the Diagnostic Science Laboratories**, HM student passport VISA activity, at HM Head Office, Bighi.

2-3 November: **Guided tour and talk on the Inquisition** for senior citizens, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5 November: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to the National Museum of Archaeology, Domvs Romana, Fort St Elmo and the Inquisitor's Palace.

6 November: **Getting to know Antoine Camilleri**, exclusive guided tour for HM members, at MUŻA.

7, 11, 14, 18, 21-22, 24-25, 28-30 November: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja**, thematic activity aimed at Year 7 students at the Inquisitor's Palace.

8-9 November: **Trekking fl-Inhawi ta Ghar Dalam**, thematic activity aimed at Year 7 students at Ghar Dalam.

12 November: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to MUŻA and Fort St Elmo.

14 November: **Niskopru s-sigrieti tal-Katakombi**, thematic activity aimed at Year 8 at Fort St Elmo.

18 November: **Torchlight Tour**, an unusual experience of the Hal Tarxien prehistoric complex.

18 November: **X-Ray techniques: analytical and imaging power**, continuous professional development course for HM conservators.

22 November: **Guided visit of the Conservation Laboratories** by Year 8 students.

22 November: **Neolithic Art activity** aimed at senior citizens at Haġar Qim.

23 November: **Activities at Fort St Elmo** for foreign exchange students as part of an Erasmus Programme.

28 November: **Identity through self-portraiture** activity aimed at people living with dementia at MUŻA.

30 November: **The Hypogeum online programme** to students of St Augustine College, Marsa.

2 December: **Tactile Art workshop** on Giorgio Preca exhibition for people with visual impairments, at MUŻA.

3 December: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to the Domvs Romana and Tarxien Temples.

5 December: On-site **lecture on fashion** to second year MCAST students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5, 7 December: **Mix-Xekel għall-Ewro. L-Istorja tal-Muniti fil-Gzejjer Maltin**, thematic activity for Year 5 students at the National Museum of Archaeology.

5, 7, 9, 12 December: **Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied** thematic activity focusing on typical Christmas food for Year 6 students at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 December: **Urban legends on the Hypogeum**, exclusive curatorial tour, at the Hypogeum.

10 December: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to the Inquisitor's Palace, Fort St Angelo, and the National Museum of Natural History.

11 December: **Open day with guided tours** at the Grand Master's Palace.

12 December: **Landscapes and the Baroque**, thematic art activity for Form 4 and Form 5 art option students, at MUŻA.

13 December: **Passejn fil-Belt ta' Pinto**, historical guided tour around Hal Qormi, with Mario Coleiro.

14, 15 December: **Christmas traditions – food and music from wartime Malta**, an activity for Senior Passport holders at Fort St Elmo.

16 December: **Christmas traditions – food and music from wartime Malta**, for people living with dementia, at Fort St Elmo.

17 December: **Project sneak peek**, guided tour of the current project to HM members, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 December: **Guided tour of Fort St Elmo** for the Malta University Historical Society.

17 December: **University of Malta 'I Belong' visit** to Fort St Angelo and Ħaġar Qim.

21 December: **Experience the Winter Solstice**, exclusive tours at Mnajdra Temples.

## EVENTS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

23 February: **Special lighting of Ta' Kola Windmill** for Earth Hour.

6 June: **Official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Research Infrastructure for Heritage Science** E-RIHS, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Restoration Directorate, the National Archives, Malta Libraries, the Archdiocese of Malta, the St John's Co-Cathedral Foundation, and the Ministry for National Heritage.

17 June: **Ocean literacy event** as part of the Interreg CORALLO Project on Natura 2000 sites, at the National Aquarium, Qawra.

18 June: **Seminar on ORP Kujawiak**, under the auspices of the Polish Ambassador to Malta, at the Archaeology Centre of the University of Malta.

15 August: Commemoration of the **80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Santa Marija Convoy**, organised by *Fondazzjoni Ċelebrazzjonijiet Nazzjonali* in collaboration with *Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna*.

1 October: **Late night opening of MUŻA, the National Museum of Archaeology and Tal-Pilar Church** on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

8 October: **BirguFest**, extended opening hours and initiatives in museums in Vittoriosa.

24-27 November: **Festival Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb**, organised by the National Book Council at the Malta Fairs and Convention Centre, Ta' Qali.

## EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

4 January: Official presentation of the **Heritage Shield awards** to the winners of 'My Built Heritage' competition, in collaboration with the Education Department, at St Paul's Catacombs.

9 January: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

13 January: **Presentation of official coat of arms to H. E. the President of the Republic**, at San Anton Palace.

13 January: **Official unveiling of 'St John the Baptist at the spring'**, attributed to Caravaggio, in collaboration with the heirs of Vincenzo Bonello, at MUŻA.

18 January: **Official launch of Autism Friendly Spaces** for the National Museum of Archaeology and the National Museum of Natural History, in collaboration with NGO Prisms, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

28 January: **Xalata ta' Kitba**, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Ġgantija.

4 February: **Xalata ta' Kitba**, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Ġgantija.

6 February: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

18 February: **Xalata ta' Kitba**, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Ġgantija.

22 March: First viewing of the **documentary on the first phase of the restoration project of the Grand Master's Palace**, on TVM, in collaboration with Public Broadcasting Services.

25 March: **Xalata ta' Kitba**, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

31 March: **Colours at HMS St Angelo**, in collaboration with the Royal Navy Association (Malta Branch) and the Malta Command Re-enactment Group, at Fort St Angelo.

31 March: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

1, 29 April: **Xalata ta' Kitba**, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

4-6 April: **Thematic educational activity on symbolic literacy** for students of Mqabba primary school, in collaboration with the University of Malta, at Haġar Qim.

10 April: **Six guided tours on the excavations at Tas-Silġ**, in collaboration with the University of Malta and the Missione Archeologica a Malta, at Tas-Silġ.

13 April: **Il-Purċissjoni s-Sewda**, in collaboration with Kummissjoni Ġimgħa l-Kbira Birgu and St Lawrence's Parish, starting from the Inquisitor's Palace.

23 April: **Hands-on workshop on Qassat tal-Għid**, in collaboration with the Xagħra Local Council on the occasion of Jum ix-Xagħra, at Ta' Kola Windmill.

6 May: **Official presentation on Villa Guardamangia** by students of MSc in Sustainable Heritage of the University College London, at Villa Guardamangia.

7 May: Demonstration sessions to students participating in **X'tixtieq issir la tikber?** As part of the Public Service Week, at MUZA and Bigħi Conservations Laboratories.

18 May: **Workshop on the Power of Museums** focusing on digitisation and accessibility, organised by Wikimedia Community Malta on the occasion of the International Museum Day, at Fort St Elmo.

5 June: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

18-19 June: Ola Gjeilo's **Sunrise Mass and viewing of the summer solstice**, in collaboration with KorMalta and ŻfinMalta, at Mnajdra, on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days.

26 June: **Anniversary of the Fall** – Re-enactments to commemorate the 577<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the fall of Fort St Elmo on 23 June 1565, during the Great Siege, in collaboration with Show of Arms, at Fort St Elmo.

26 June: **International Lace Day**, including twenty lace workers, at the National Museum of Natural History.

29 June: First viewing of the **documentary on Villa Frere**, on TVM, in collaboration with Public Broadcasting Services.

2-3 July: **The strange life of Betta Caloiro**, a roaming concert of polyphonic sacred and secular voice

music, in collaboration with the choir Cappella Sanctae Catharinae, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 July: **Open Evening at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

8 July: **Official visit by the President of the Republic** for an update on the project, at the Grand Master's Palace, in collaboration with the Office of the President.

13 July: **Official launch of the publication** *A College for the Arts. Mikiel Anton Vassalli College*, in collaboration with the Mikiel Anton Vassalli College.

14 July: **Official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between HM and the School of Art**, at MUŻA.

21 July: **Official presentation of Quality Assurance award** by MTA to St Paul's Catacombs, at St Paul's Catacombs.

7 August: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

9 August: **Official presentation of Quality Assurance award** by MTA to the National Museum of Archaeology, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

10 August: **Official presentation of Quality Assurance award** by MTA to Tarxien Temples and the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum, at Tarxien Temples.

21 August: **Musical concert by the Prince of Wales Own Band Club** on the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the return of the Dominican Friars to Birgu, in collaboration with the Dominican Convent of Birgu and the Kottonera Foundation, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

4 September: **Open Evening at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

18 September: **One-minute silence on the vigil of Queen Elizabeth's funeral**, in collaboration with the British High Commission, at Villa Guardamangia.

23 September: **Official presentation of Quality Assurance award by MTA** to Ġgantija Temples, at Ġgantija Temples.

27 September: **Official visit by the President of the Republic** for an update on the project, at the Grand Master's Palace, in collaboration with the Office of the President.

1-2 October: **Birgu – A gem in the European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations**, special guided tours in collaboration with the Birgu Local Council and the Kummissjoni Ġimgħa I-Kbira, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 October: **Late night opening of MUŻA, the National Museum of Archaeology and Tal-Pilar Church** on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

2 October: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

13 October: **Official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between HM and MCAST**, at HM's Head Office, Bighi.

18 October: **Official visit by the Minister for the National Heritage**, the Arts and Local Government, and the Parliamentary Secretary for European Funds for an update on the project, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

6 November: **Open Day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

17-30 November: **Shelter, Famine, Resistance in WWII**, immersive audio-visual experience in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the Valletta Underground.

13 November: **Special opening of Tarxien Temples** to Tarxien residents, on the occasion of Il-Fiera l-Kbira ta' San Martin, in collaboration with Għaqda Mużikali Marija Annunzjata.

17 December: **Guided tour of Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum** to members of the Malta Historical Society.

## EVENTS HOSTED BY HM

9 January: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

6 February: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

6 March: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

3 April: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

8 May: **Guided tours of Villa Guardamangia**, as part of the Heritage Planning Tours organised by the Planning Authority.

12 June: **Sally Sounds choir performance**, in collaboration with Teatru Salesjan, at MUŻA.

26-27 August: **Mediterranean Literature Festival**, at Fort St Elmo.

30 September – 1 October: **European Researchers' Night. Malta Science and Arts Festival**, at Fort St Elmo.

1 October: **Dancing performance 'UNight'**, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology, on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

1 October: **Jazz music event 'Is-City project'**, at MUŻA, on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

1 October: **Theatrical performance X-Voto**, at the Tal-Pilar Church, on the occasion of the Notte Bianca.

23 October: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

29 October: **Ambit, Happening, Performance and Action Painting** by Cristóbal Gabarron, organised by *Spazju Kreattiv* on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gabarron Foundation, at Ġgantija Temples.

5 November: **Annual gathering of the Malta Numismatic Society**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

7 November: **Presentation of warrants to qualified conservators** by the Minister for Culture, organised by the Warrants Board, at Fort St Elmo.

13, 27 November: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

23 November: **Timbre and Textiles**, an evening of melody and heritage at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

4, 18 December: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

8 December: **Hainback electronic music live performance**, organised by Performance Circus, at Fort St Angelo.

9 December: **Official launch of the publication *Codex Meltensis*** by Alex Vella Gregory, organised by Midsea Books, at Tal-Pilar Church.



APPENDIX II-V  
ACQUISITIONS

## Appendix II

### Purchase of Modern and Contemporary Artworks (Line Vote 5557)

| Artist                | Title   | Price in € |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| Kevin Sciberras       | The Inquisitor's Palace, Birgu  | 499        |
| Willie Apap (1918-70) | Oil on canvas portrait of Lina Ventura  | 9,000      |
| Margherita Pulè       | Cement Truck Procession<br>Set of 8 photos on Baryta Fine Art archival paper, approx. A3, framed. Edition 1 of 3 + 1080p resolution video 1'56"   | 5,500      |
| Matthew Schembri      | Xandelier, 2018-2019<br>Installation consisting of metal circle shapes, ink, and pens   | 7,250      |
| Nico Conti            | Of Lace and Porcelain: Curved Cathedral Arch,<br>Unique, one-off 3D printed high-fired porcelain  | 1,990      |
| Shaun Grech           | Walking Wounded, acrylic on canvas paper<br><br>No Prized Possession, just a Tentacle for a Head, oil on board<br><br>Bathroom Ensuite, Sular Żejjed, u Xi Iswed Jaħdimli Rħis ... u Xala Żobbi mis-Siġar, oil and acrylic on canvas paper  | 2,350      |
| Bonavia Printers      | Selection of prints for local brands such as 'Universal' and 'Portainer's' local squash brands, canned-goods labels such as 'The National Canning Works', 'Superior Maritime Products, Marsa', cigarette labels such as 'Player's Navy Cut' and several other brands adorning wine or oil bottles and product authenticity labels. This acquisition also comprises of lithograph posters from the 1940s and 1950s such as 'Ġurnata Missjunarja' and 'Conventus Marialis', both by Maltese artist and stamp designer Emvin Cremona (1919-87), along with other posters which were prominently displayed during the time. | 3,835      |

|                               |   |        |
|-------------------------------|---|--------|
| Caesar Attard                 | Two preparatory drawings for the 'Pregnant Madonna' painting<br>Sacred Art<br>Metadimensional units:<br>Two sets of cards part of a collection of 12 sets of hand-drawn cards<br>Pantographs<br>ID card / Argotti performance<br>Life and Passion - 2 <sup>nd</sup> series<br>Painting = 078untitled1pencil<br>Painting = 078untitled2pencil<br>Painting = 079untitled1pencil | 21,700 |
| Antoine Camilleri (1922-2005) | St Francis, linoprint   | 1,600  |
| Giorgio Preca (1909-84)       | Crucifixion bozzetto, oil on canvas   | 17,000 |
| Frans Galea (1945-94)         | Cyclist, bronze on marble plinth  | 13,000 |

## Appendix III

### Acquisition of Natural History Specimens

A collection of molluscs from Maltese waters was donated by Mr John Attard Montalto of Sliema on 11 February.

Mr Paul Sammut of Rabat, a regular donor, presented a dead (fresh road kill) Hedgehog *Atelerix algirus* on 15 February, and eight specimens of set *Peoria pectinellum* (Lepidoptera) on 7 April.

A carcass of an Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodsgoni* (a very rare winter visitor) killed by a cat was donated by Dr Benjamin Metzger.

Ms Ellie Dobbs presented two Leopard Snake and one Western Whip Snake carcasses to the museum on 2 and 24 April respectively.

Mr Adrian Agius, another regular donor, presented bags of seeds from Maltese plants, namely: *Diplotaxis eruroides* 08.01.2022, Birkirkara, *Narcissus serotinus* 28.11.2021 Birkirkara, *Malva* sp (sylvestris) 05.05.2020 Birkirkara, *Smyrniolum olusatrum* 28/02/2022 Buskett.

Ms Tamsin Caruana of Manikata presented thirty books on Maltese archaeology and natural history and fifty issues of National Geographic on 15 August. Professor Louis F. Cassar donated a series of old Lepidoptera journals for the museum library.

Another regular donor to the Museum, Mr Constantin Mifsud presented a colony of bi-valves (species to be determined) and a specimen of a fish *Pyconodonte cochlear* taken locally; the specimen was preserved in the wet collection.

Mr Ivan Zahra of Qormi, donated a small collection of foreign fossils, mainly ammonites and belemnites, a fish and shark's teeth



Foreign fossils presented by Mr Ivan Zahra (Photo by J.J.Borg)

Ms Sarah Mallia presented a carcass of a Pygmy White-toothed (Etruscan) Shrew *Suncus etruscus*, on 7 September.

Mr David Aquilina of Qrendi presented a carcass of a Weasel *Mustela nivalis* found dead in Mġarr, Malta. Specimen is being cleaned and the skeleton will be preserved.

A photo-print of the early Maltese Pleistocene phase depicting a Giant Swan *Cygnus falconeri* intimidating a pair of pygmy elephants *Palaeoloxodon falconeri* and other species of the period was generously donated by Mr Michael Gatt of Rabat, who had originally commissioned it.



Photoprint of original painting depicting the early phase of the Maltese Pleistocene Fauna

Moreover, the following donations were also added to the collections:

Mr Alex Spiteri of Rabat Malta, on 6 January

| Inventory No | Genus  | Species     | Vernacular (EN)   |
|--------------|--------|-------------|-------------------|
| Orn.6776     | Circus | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Orn.6777     | Circus | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Orn.6778     | Circus | aeruginosus | Marsh Harrier     |
| Orn.6779     | Pernis | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Orn.6780     | Pernis | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Orn.6781     | Pernis | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |

|          |             |             |                      |
|----------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|
| Orn.6782 | Pernis      | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard        |
| Orn.6783 | Pernis      | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard        |
| Orn.6784 | Pernis      | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard        |
| Orn.6785 | Anas        | acuta       | Pintail              |
| Orn.6786 | Anas        | acuta       | Pintail              |
| Orn.6787 | Anas        | querquedula | Garganey             |
| Orn.6788 | Anas        | querquedula | Garganey             |
| Orn.6789 | Aythya      | nyroca      | Ferruginous Duck     |
| Orn.6790 | Aythya      | nyroca      | Ferruginous Duck     |
| Orn.6791 | Falco       | eleonora    | Eleonora's Falcon    |
| Orn.6792 | Falco       | subbuteo    | Hobby                |
| Orn.6793 | Falco       | subbuteo    | Hobby                |
| Orn.6794 | Falco       | subbuteo    | Hobby                |
| Orn.6795 | Falco       | subbuteo    | Hobby                |
| Orn.6796 | Falco       | subbuteo    | Hobby                |
| Orn.6797 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6798 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6799 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6800 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6801 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6802 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6803 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6804 | Falco       | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel       |
| Orn.6805 | Accipiter   | nisus       | Sparrowhawk          |
| Orn.6807 | Anas        | querquedula | Garganey             |
| Orn.6808 | Calonectris | diomedea    | Scopoli's Shearwater |
| Orn.6809 | Puffinus    | yelkouan    | Yelkouan Shearwater  |
| Orn.6810 | Podiceps    | nigricollis | Black-necked Grebe   |
| Orn.6810 | Podiceps    | nigricollis | Black-necked Grebe   |
| Orn.6811 | Nycticorax  | nycticorax  | Night Heron          |
| Orn.6812 | Nycticorax  | nycticorax  | Night Heron          |
| Orn.6813 | Ardeola     | ralloides   | Squacco Heron        |
| Orn.6814 | Egretta     | garzetta    | Little Egret         |

|          |                 |                |                      |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Orn.6815 | Ardea           | purpurea       | Purple Heron         |
| Orn.6816 | Ixobrychus      | minutus        | Little Bittern       |
| Orn.6817 | Laridae         | melanocephalus | Mediterranean Gull   |
| Orn.6818 | Laridae         | melanocephalus | Mediterranean Gull   |
| Orn.6819 | Chroicocephalus | ridibundus     | Black-headed Gull    |
| Orn.6820 | Sterna          | sandicensis    | Sandwich Tern        |
| Orn.6821 | Chlidonias      | niger          | Black Tern           |
| Orn.6822 | Himantopus      | himantopus     | Black-winged Stilt   |
| Orn.6823 | Tringa          | nebularia      | Greenshank           |
| Orn.6824 | Philomachus     | pugnax         | Ruff                 |
| Orn.6825 | Tringa          | glareola       | Wood Sandpiper       |
| Orn.6826 | Tringa          | glareola       | Wood Sandpiper       |
| Orn.6827 | Tringa          | ochropus       | Green Sandpiper      |
| Orn.6828 | Actitis         | hypolaucos     | Common Sandpiper     |
| Orn.6829 | Pluvialis       | apricaria      | Golden Plover        |
| Orn.6830 | Charadrius      | dubius         | Little Ringed Plover |
| Orn.6831 | Charadrius      | dubius         | Little Ringed Plover |
| Orn.6832 | Calidris        | minuta         | Little Stint         |
| Orn.6833 | Calidris        | minuta         | Little Stint         |
| Orn.6834 | Scolopax        | rusticola      | Woodcock             |
| Orn.6835 | Scolopax        | rusticola      | Woodcock             |
| Orn.6836 | Gallinago       | gallinago      | Common Snipe         |
| Orn.6837 | Gallinago       | gallinago      | Common Snipe         |
| Orn.6838 | Crex            | crex           | Corncrake            |
| Orn.6839 | Gallinula       | chloropus      | Moorhen              |
| Orn.6840 | Gallinula       | chloropus      | Moorhen              |
| Orn.6841 | Coturnix        | coturnix       | Common Quail         |
| Orn.6842 | Cuculus         | canorus        | Common Cuckoo        |
| Orn.6843 | Streptopelia    | turtur         | Turtle Dove          |
| Orn.6844 | Upupa           | epops          | Hoopoe               |
| Orn.6845 | Upupa           | epops          | Hoopoe               |
| Orn.6846 | Alcedo          | atthis         | Common Kingfisher    |
| Orn.6847 | Turdus          | philomelos     | Songthrush           |

|          |            |                |                      |
|----------|------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Orn.6848 | Turdus     | merula         | Blackbird            |
| Orn.6849 | Turdus     | merula         | Blackbird            |
| Orn.6850 | Turdus     | merula         | Blackbird            |
| Orn.6851 | Turdus     | merula         | Blackbird            |
| Orn.6852 | Turdus     | pilaris        | Fieldfare            |
| Orn.6853 | Turdus     | viscivorus     | Mistle Thrush        |
| Orn.6854 | Monticola  | solitarius     | Blue Rock Thrush     |
| Orn.6855 | Eritachus  | rubecula       | Robin                |
| Orn.6856 | Alauda     | arvensis       | Skylark              |
| Orn.6857 | Motacilla  | alba           | White Wagtail        |
| Orn.6858 | Passer     | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow      |
| Orn.6859 | Emberiza   | calandra       | Corn Bunting         |
| Orn.6860 | Sturnus    | vulgaris       | Common Starling      |
| Orn.6861 | Pica       | pica           | Magpie               |
| Orn.6862 | Psittacula | kramerii       | Rose-ringed Parakeet |

Mr Vincent Muscat of Lija, on 6 January

| Inventory No | Genus      | Species       | Vernacular (EN)     |
|--------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Orn.6863     | Coturnix   | coturnix      | Common Quail        |
| Orn.6864     | Coturnix   | coturnix      | Common Quail        |
| Orn.6865     | Coturnix   | coturnix      | Common Quail        |
| Orn.6866     | Phasianus  | collichus     | Pheasant            |
| Orn.6867     | Anas       | crecca        | Teal                |
| Orn.6868     | Alectoris  | barbara       | Barbary Partridge   |
| Orn.6869     | Alectoris  | barbara       | Barbary Partridge   |
| Orn.6890     | Anas       | platyrhynchos | Mallard             |
| Orn.6891     | Podiceps   | cristatus     | Great-crested Grebe |
| Orn.6892     | Ardea      | cinerea       | Grey Heron          |
| Orn.6893     | Ardea      | purpurea      | Purple Heron        |
| Orn.6894     | Ardea      | purpurea      | Purple Heron        |
| Orn.6895     | Nycticorax | nycticorax    | Night Heron         |
| Orn.6896     | Nycticorax | Nycticorax    | Night Heron         |
| Orn.6897     | Adreola    | ralloides     | Squacco Heron       |
| Orn.6898     | Plegadis   | falcinellus   | Glossy Ibis         |

|          |              |              |                         |
|----------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Orn.6899 | Ixobrychus   | minutus      | Little Bittern          |
| Orn.6900 | Pernis       | apivorus     | Honey Buzzard           |
| Orn.6901 | Accipiter    | nissus       | Sparrowhawk             |
| Orn.6902 | Falco        | tinnunculus  | Common Kestrel          |
| Orn.6803 | Falco        | vespertinus  | Red-footed Falcon       |
| Orn.6904 | Falco        | vespertinus  | Red-footed Falcon       |
| Orn.6905 | Fulica       | atra         | Common Coot             |
| Orn.6906 | Gallinula    | chloropus    | Moorhen                 |
| Orn.6907 | Gallinula    | chloropus    | Moorhen                 |
| Orn.6908 | Gallinula    | chloropus    | Moorhen                 |
| Orn.6909 | Grus         | grus         | Common Crane            |
| Orn.6910 | Vanellus     | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing        |
| Orn.6911 | Vanellus     | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing        |
| Orn.6912 | Glareola     | pratincola   | Collared Pratincole     |
| Orn.6913 | Cursorius    | cursor       | Cream-coloured Courser  |
| Orn.6914 | Tringa       | erythropus   | Spotted Redshank        |
| Orn.6915 | Tringa       | erythropus   | Spotted Redshank        |
| Orn.6916 | Philomachus  | pugnax       | Ruff                    |
| Orn.6917 | Tringa       | ochropus     | Green Sandpiper         |
| Orn.6918 | Actitis      | hypoleucos   | Common Sandpiper        |
| Orn.6919 | Actitis      | hypoleucos   | Common Sandpiper        |
| Orn.6920 | Charadrius   | morinellus   | Dotterel                |
| Orn.6921 | Pluvialis    | apricaria    | Golden Plover           |
| Orn.6922 | Numenius     | arquata      | Curlew                  |
| Orn.6923 | Limosa       | limosa       | Black-tailed Godwit     |
| Orn.6924 | Burhinus     | oediconemus  | Stone Curlew            |
| Orn.6925 | Gallinago    | gallinago    | Common Snipe            |
| Orn.6926 | Scolopax     | rusticola    | Woodcock                |
| Orn.6927 | Chlidonias   | leucopterus  | White-winged Black Tern |
| Orn.6928 | Columba      | palumbus     | Wood Pigeon             |
| Orn.6929 | Columba      | oenas        | Stock Dove              |
| Orn.6930 | Streptopelia | senegalensis | Laughing Dove           |
| Orn.6931 | Streptopelia | turtur       | Turtle Dove             |
| Orn.6932 | Streptopelia | turtur       | Turtle Dove             |
| Orn.6933 | Streptopelia | turtur       | Turtle Dove             |
| Orn.6934 | Cuculus      | canorus      | Common Cuckoo           |
| Orn.6935 | Cuculus      | canorus      | Common Cuckoo           |

|          |                |                |                       |
|----------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Orn.6936 | Tyto           | alba           | Barn Owl              |
| Orn.6937 | Asio           | flammaeus      | Short-eared Owl       |
| Orn.6938 | Otus           | scops          | Scops Owl             |
| Orn.6939 | Alcedo         | atthis         | Common Kingfisher     |
| Orn.6940 | Merops         | apiaster       | Bee-eater             |
| Orn.6941 | Coracias       | garrulus       | Roller                |
| Orn.6942 | Turdus         | merula         | Blackbird             |
| Orn.6943 | Turdus         | toquatus       | Ring Ouzel            |
| Orn.6944 | Monticola      | saxatilis      | Rock Thrush           |
| Orn.6945 | Monticola      | solitarius     | Blue Rock Thrush      |
| Orn.6846 | Oenanthe       | hispanica      | Black-eared Wheatear  |
| Orn.6847 | Lanius         | senator        | Woodchat Shrike       |
| Orn.6848 | Oriolus        | oriolus        | Golden Oriole         |
| Orn.6849 | Sturnus        | vulgaris       | Common Starling       |
| Orn.6850 | Sylvia         | atricapilla    | Blackcap              |
| Orn.6851 | Muscicapa      | striata        | Spotted Flycatcher    |
| Orn.6852 | Spinus         | spinus         | Siskin                |
| Orn.6853 | Coccothraustes | coccothraustes | Hawfinch              |
| Orn.6854 | Loxia          | curvirostra    | Crossbill             |
| Orn.6855 | Paroaria       | coronata       | Red-crested Cardinal  |
| Orn.6856 | Amazona        | aestiva        | Blue-fronted Amazon   |
| Orn.6857 | Amazona        | aestiva        | Blue-fronted Amazon   |
| Orn.6858 | Platycercus    | elegans        | Crimson Rosella       |
| Orn.6859 | Jynx           | toquilla       | Wryneck               |
| Orn.6860 | Serinus        | canarius       | Canary                |
| Orn.6861 | Carduelis      | carduelis      | Goldfinch             |
| Orn.6862 | Lonchura       | punctulata     | Scaley-breasted Munia |
| Orn.6863 | Passer         | montanus       | Tree Sparrow          |
| Orn.6864 | Spermestes     | cuccullatus    | Bronze Mannikin       |
| Orn.6865 | Melopsittacus  | undulatus      | Budgerigar            |
| Orn.6866 | Melopsittacus  | undulatus      | Budgerigar            |



Mr Muscat's collection at Lija (Photo by John J.Borg)

Mr Paul Zammit of Birkirkara, on 21 January

| Genus      | Species    | Vernacular (EN)        |
|------------|------------|------------------------|
| Ixobrychus | minutus    | Little Bittern         |
| Pernis     | apivorus   | Honey Buzzard          |
| Falco      | subbuteo   | Eurasian Hobby         |
| Cursorius  | cursor     | Cream-coloured Courser |
| Gallinula  | chloropus  | Moorhen                |
| Crex       | crex       | Corn Crake             |
| Charadrius | morinellus | Dotterel               |
| Scolopac   | rusticola  | Woodcock               |
| Upupa      | epopos     | Hoopoe                 |
| Corachias  | garrulus   | Roller                 |
| Turdus     | merula     | Blackbird              |
| Turdus     | merula     | Blackbird              |

Mr Vincent Sammut of Lija, on 3 March

| Genus          | Species        | Vernacular EN           |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Croicocephalus | ridibundus     | Black-headed Gull       |
| Larus          | melanocephalus | Mediterranean Gull      |
| Croicocephalus | genei          | Slender-billed Gull     |
| Sterna         | sandvicensis   | Sandwich Tern           |
| Amazon         | ochrocephala   | Yellow-crowned Amazon   |
| Trichoglossus  | ornatus        | Ornate Lorikeet         |
| Psittacula     | cycnocephala   | Plum-headed Parakeet    |
| Uraeginthus    | bengalus       | Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu |
| Uraeginthus    | bengalus       | Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu |
| Uraeginthus    | bengalus       | Red-cheeked Cordon-bleu |
| Estrilida      | astrild        | Common Waxbill          |
| Passerina      | ciris          | Painted Bunting         |
| Passerina      | ciris          | Painted Bunting         |
| Padda          | oryzivora      | Java Sparrow            |
| Pycnonotus     | jocosus        | Red-whiskered Bulbul    |
| Paroaria       | coronata       | Red-crested Cardinal    |
| Melopsittacus  | undulatus      | Budgerigar              |
| Melopsittacus  | undulatus      | Budgerigar              |
| Melopsittacus  | undulatus      | Budgerigar              |
| Geopelia       | cuneata        | Diamond Dove            |
| Geopelia       | cuneata        | Diamond Dove            |
| Sturnia        | pagodarum      | Brahminy Starling       |
| Pernis         | apivorus       | Honey Buzzard           |
| Pernis         | apivorus       | Honey Buzzard           |
| Circus         | aeruginosus    | Marsh Harrier           |
| Circus         | pygargus       | Montagus Harrier        |
| Asio           | flammaeus      | Short-eared Owl         |
| Asio           | otus           | Long-eared Owl          |
| Asio           | otus           | Long-eared Owl          |
| Tyto           | alba           | Barn Owl                |
| Otus           | scops          | Scops Owl               |
| Otus           | scops          | Scops Owl               |
| Anas           | clypeata       | Northern Shoveler       |

|            |             |                   |
|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Anas       | penelope    | Wigeon            |
| Aythya     | fuligula    | Tufted Duck       |
| Apus       | melba       | Alpine Swift      |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Circus     | aeruginosus | Marsh Harrier     |
| Circus     | macrourus   | Pallid Harrier    |
| Circus     | cyaneus     | Hen Harrier       |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Circus     | aeruginosus | Marsh Harrier     |
| Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon |
| Falco      | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel    |
| Falco      | naumanni    | Lesser Kestrel    |
| Falco      | naumanni    | Lesser Kestrel    |
| Circus     | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Falco      | columbarius | Merlin            |
| Accipiter  | nissus      | Sparrowhawk       |
| Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon |
| Falco      | subbuteo    | Hobby             |
| Falco      | eleonora    | Eleonora's Falcon |
| Falco      | eleonora    | Eleonora's Falcon |
| Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon |
| Circus     | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Falco      | columbarius | Merlin            |
| Ardea      | purpurea    | Purple Heron      |
| Anas       | penelope    | Wigeon            |
| Nycticorax | nycticorax  | Night Heron       |
| Ardeola    | ralloides   | Squacco Heron     |
| Ardeola    | ralloides   | Squacco Heron     |
| Egretta    | garzetta    | Little Egret      |
| Ardea      | cinerea     | Grey Heron        |
| Ardea      | cinerea     | Grey Heron        |

|            |               |                     |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Puffinus   | yelkouan      | Yelkouan Shearwater |
| Nycticorax | nycticorax    | Night Heron         |
| Morus      | bassanus      | Northern Gannet     |
| Ardea      | purpurea      | Purple Heron        |
| Botaurus   | stellaris     | Great Bittern       |
| Plegadis   | falcinellus   | Glossy Ibis         |
| Anas       | plathyrhyncos | Mallard             |
| Grus       | grus          | Common Crane        |
| Anas       | acuta         | Northern Pintail    |
| Gallinago  | gallinago     | Common Snipe        |
| Ardea      | purpurea      | Purple Heron        |
| Anas       | querquedula   | Garganey            |
| Pandion    | haliaetus     | Osprey              |
| Perdix     | perdix        | Grey Partridge      |
| Perdix     | perdix        | Grey Partridge      |
| Phasianus  | colchicus     | Pheasant            |
| Podiceps   | cristatus     | Great Crested Grebe |
| Anas       | querquedula   | Garganey            |
| Anas       | penelope      | Wigeon              |
| Platalea   | leucorodia    | Spoonbill           |
| Anas       | crecca        | Eurasian Teal       |
| Pernis     | apivorus      | Honey Buzzard       |
| Anas       | penelope      | Wigeon              |
| Anas       | clypeata      | Northern Shoveler   |
| Anas       | acuta         | Northern Pintail    |
| Ixobrychus | minutus       | Little Bittern      |
| Ixobrychus | minutus       | Little Bittern      |
| Podiceps   | cristatus     | Great Crested Grebe |
| Morus      | bassanus      | Northern Gannet     |
| Tadorna    | tadorna       | Shelduck            |
| Serinus    | serinus       | Serin               |
| Fringilla  | coelebs       | Chaffinch           |
| Emberiza   | schoeniclus   | Reed Bunting        |
| Carduelis  | carduelis     | Goldfinch           |
| Linaria    | cannabina     | Linnet              |
| Linaria    | cannabina     | Linnet              |

|               |                |                        |
|---------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Serinus       | canaria        | Canary                 |
| Passer        | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow        |
| Emberiza      | schoeniclus    | Reed Bunting           |
| Passer        | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow        |
| Coturnix      | coturnix       | Common Quail           |
| Calidris      | teminckii      | Temminck's Stint       |
| Emberiza      | calandra       | Corn Bunting           |
| Motacilla     | alba           | White Wagtail          |
| Linaria       | cannabina      | Linnet                 |
| Oriolus       | oriolus        | Golden Oriole          |
| Bombycilla    | garrulus       | Waxwing                |
| Passer        | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow ?      |
| Fringilla     | coelebs        | Chaffinch              |
| Anthus        | trivialis      | Tree Pipit             |
| Loxia         | curvirostra    | Crossbill              |
| Loxia         | curvirostra    | Crossbill              |
| Melanocorypha | calandra       | Calandra Lark          |
| Oenanthe      | hispanica      | Black-eared Wheatear   |
| Lanius        | senator        | Woodchat Shrike        |
| Coturnix      | coturnix       | Common Quail           |
| Melopsittacus | undulatus      | Budgerigar             |
| Fulica        | atra           | Common Coot            |
| Chloris       | chloris        | Greenfinch             |
| Glareola      | pratincola     | Pratincole             |
| Passer        | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow        |
| Passer        | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow        |
| Merops        | apiaster       | Bee-eater              |
| Bucanetes     | githagineus    | Tumpeter Finch         |
| Jynx          | torquilla      | Wryneck                |
| Cursorius     | cursor         | Cream-Coloured Courser |
| Saxicola      | rubetra        | Whinchat               |
| Curruca       | melanocephala  | Sardinian Warbler      |
| Lullula       | arborea        | Woodlark               |
| Anthus        | campestris     | Tawny Pipit            |
| Oriolus       | oriolus        | Golden Oriole          |
| Sylvia        | communis       | Common Whitethroat     |

|              |               |                         |
|--------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Alauda       | arvensis      | Skylark                 |
| Chlidonias   | niger         | Black Tern              |
| Vidua        | macroura      | Pin-tailed Whydah       |
| Estrilda     | melpoda       | Orange-cheeked Waxbill  |
| Estrilda     | melpoda       | Orange-cheeked Waxbill  |
| Calandrella  | brachydactyla | Greater Short-toed Lark |
| Calandrella  | brachydactyla | Greater Short-toed Lark |
| Prunella     | modularis     | Dunnock                 |
| Turdus       | iliacus       | Redwing                 |
| Cisticola    | juncidis      | Zitting Cisticola       |
| Turdus       | philomelos    | Song Thrush             |
| Turdus       | viscivorus    | Mistle Thrush           |
| Turdus       | merula        | Blackbird               |
| Turdus       | torquatus     | Ring Ouzel              |
| Turdus       | pilaris       | Fieldfare               |
| Apus         | apus          | Common Swift            |
| Turdus       | torquatus     | Ring Ouzel              |
| Coturnix     | coturnix      | Common Quail            |
| Monticola    | saxatilis     | Rock Thrush             |
| Monticola    | saxatilis     | Rock Thrush             |
| Monticola    | solitarius    | Blue Rock Thrush        |
| Motacilla    | alba          | White Wagtail           |
| Motacilla    | alba          | White Wagtail           |
| Phylloscopus | sibilatrix    | Wood Warbler            |
| Coturnix     | coturnix      | Common Quail            |
| Turdus       | iliacus       | Redwing                 |
| Linaria      | cannabina     | Linnet                  |
| Calidris     | temminicki    | Temminck's Stint        |
| Achttis      | hypoleucos    | Common Sandpiper        |
| Haematopus   | ostralegus    | Oystercatcher           |
| Charadrius   | morinellus    | Dotterel                |
| Calidris     | minuta        | Little Stint            |
| Tringa       | erythropus    | Spotted Redshank        |
| Pluvialis    | apricaria     | Golden Plover           |
| Numenius     | arquata       | Curlew                  |
| Pluvialis    | squatarola    | Grey Plover             |

|               |              |                    |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Calidris      | pugnax       | Ruff               |
| Calidris      | pugnax       | Ruff               |
| Calidris      | ferruginea   | Curlew Sandpiper   |
| Burhinus      | oediconemus  | Stone Curlew       |
| Recurvirostra | avosetta     | Avocet             |
| Calidris      | ferruginea   | Curlew Sandpiper   |
| Sylvia        | atricapilla  | Blackcap           |
| Porzana       | porzana      | Spotted Crake      |
| Fulica        | atra         | Common Coot        |
| Gallinula     | chloropus    | Moorhen            |
| Gallinula     | chloropus    | Moorhen            |
| Crex          | crex         | Corncrake          |
| Crex          | crex         | Corncrake          |
| Rallus        | aquaticus    | Water Rail         |
| Tringa        | stagnatilis  | Marsh Sandpiper    |
| Porzana       | porzana      | Spotted Crake      |
| Chararius     | hiaticula    | Ringed Plover      |
| Porzana       | pusilla      | Baillon's Crake    |
| Porzana       | parva        | Little Crake       |
| Porzana       | parva        | Little Crake       |
| Vanellus      | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing   |
| Vanellus      | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing   |
| Charadrius    | morinellus   | Dotterel           |
| Rallus        | aquaticus    | Water Rail         |
| Tringa        | glareola     | Wood Sandpiper     |
| Sylvia        | communis     | Common Whitethroat |
| Acrocephalus  | arundinaceus | Great Reed Warbler |
| Ficedula      | hypoleuca    | Pied Flycatcher    |
| Numenius      | phaeopus     | Whimbrel           |
| Eritachus     | rubecula     | Robin              |
| Eritachus     | rubecula     | Robin              |
| Arenaria      | interpres    | Turnstone          |
| Scolopax      | rusticola    | Woodcock           |
| Gallinago     | media        | Great Snipe        |
| Gallinago     | gallinago    | Common Snipe       |
| Columba       | livia        | Feral Pigeon       |

|              |            |                        |
|--------------|------------|------------------------|
| Turdus       | torquatus  | Ring Ouzel             |
| Scolopax     | rusticola  | Woodcock               |
| Tringa       | ochropus   | Green Sandpiper        |
| Chloris      | chloris    | Greenfinch             |
| Pluvialis    | apricaria  | Golden Plover          |
| Pluvialis    | apricaria  | Golden Plover          |
| Gallinago    | gallinago  | Common Snipe           |
| Charadrius   | dubius     | Little Ringed Plover   |
| Bartramia    | longicauda | Upland Sandpiper       |
| Cecropis     | daurica    | Red-rumped Swallow     |
| Arenaria     | intrepes   | Turnstone              |
| Streptopelia | turtur     | Turtle Dove            |
| Streptopelia | turtur     | Turtle Dove            |
| Mergus       | serrator   | Red-breasted Merganser |

Mr Carmel Zammit of Zejtun, on 21 June

| Cat No.  | Genus      | Species     | English Name      |
|----------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Orn.7156 | Anas       | penelope    | Wigeon            |
| Orn.7150 | Ardeola    | ralloides   | Sqacco Heron      |
| Orn.7171 | Ixobrychus | minutus     | Little Bittern    |
| Orn.7165 | Egretta    | garzetta    | Little Egret      |
| Orn.7173 | Gallinula  | chloropus   | Moorhen           |
| Orn.7159 | Circus     | aeruginosus | Marsh Harrier     |
| Orn.7160 | Circus     | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Orn.7161 | Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Orn.7162 | Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard     |
| Orn.7163 | Circus     | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Orn.7164 | Circus     | aeruginosus | Marsh Harrier     |
| Orn.7157 | Circus     | pygargus    | Montagu's Harrier |
| Orn.7153 | Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon |
| Orn.7154 | Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon |

|          |              |             |                         |
|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| Orn.7158 | Falco        | eleonorae   | Eleonora's Falcon       |
| Orn.7168 | Himantopus   | himantopus  | Black-winged Stilt      |
| Orn.7151 | Burhinus     | oedicnemus  | Stone Curlew            |
| Orn.7166 | Tringa       | nebularia   | Greenshank              |
| Orn.7155 | Scolopax     | rusticola   | Woodcock                |
| Orn.7179 | Chlidonias   | leucopterus | White-winged Black Tern |
| Orn.7152 | Gelochelidon | nilotica    | Gull-billed Tern        |
| Orn.7178 | Apus         | melba       | Alpine Swift            |
| Orn.7169 | Cuculus      | canorus     | Common Cuckoo           |
| Orn.7172 | Alcedo       | atthis      | Common Kingfisher       |
| Orn.7170 | Cuculus      | canorus     | Common Cuckoo           |
| Orn.7175 | Merops       | apiaster    | Bee-eater               |
| Orn.7167 | Coracias     | garrulus    | Roller                  |
| Orn.7174 | Turdus       | merula      | Blackbirds              |

Mr Matthew Vella of Qawra, on 23 September

| Genus      | Species     | Vernacular (EN)        |
|------------|-------------|------------------------|
| Coturnix   | coturnix    | Common Quail           |
| Hydrobates | pelagicus   | Storm-petrel           |
| Circaetus  | gallicus    | Short-toed Eagle       |
| Circaetus  | gallicus    | Short-toed Eagle       |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard          |
| Pernis     | apivorus    | Honey Buzzard          |
| Falco      | tinnunculus | Common Kestrel         |
| Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon      |
| Falco      | vespertinus | Red-footed Falcon      |
| Vanellus   | vanellus    | Lapwing                |
| Arenaria   | interpres   | Turnstone              |
| Glareola   | pratencola  | Pratincole             |
| Corsarius  | cursor      | Cream-coloured Courser |
| Asio       | otus        | Long-eared Owl         |
| Cuculus    | canorus     | Common Cuckoo          |

|               |                |                      |
|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Clamator      | glandarius     | Great-spotted Cuckoo |
| Corachias     | garrulus       | Roller               |
| Caprimulgus   | europeus       | Nightjar             |
| Alcedo        | atthis         | Kingfisher           |
| Alcedo        | atthis         | Kingfisher           |
| Jynx          | torquilla      | Wryneck              |
| Melanocorypha | calandra       | Calandra Lark        |
| Motacilla     | alba           | White Wagtail        |
| Prunella      | modularis      | Dunnock              |
| Acrocephalus  | arundinaceus   | Great Reed Warbler   |
| Lanius        | meridionalis   | Souther Great Shrike |
| Oriolus       | oriolus        | Golder Oriole        |
| Sturnus       | vulgaris       | Common Starling      |
| Sturnus       | vulgaris       | Common Starling      |
| Fringilla     | montifringilla | Brambling            |
| Spinus        | spnius         | Siskin               |

Mr Joe Bonanno of Zebbug, on 28 September

| Genus      | Species      | Vernacular (EN)     |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Nycticorax | nycticorax   | Night Heron         |
| Ardea      | cinerea      | Grey Heron          |
| Circus     | aeruginosus  | Marsh Harrier       |
| Circus     | aeruginosus  | Marsh Harrier       |
| Falco      | tinnunculus  | Common Kestrel      |
| Falco      | vespertinus  | Red-footed Falcon   |
| Himantopus | himantopus   | Black-winged Stilt  |
| Vanellus   | vanellus     | Lapwing             |
| Pluvialis  | apricaria    | Golden Plover       |
| Tringa     | nebularia    | Greenshank          |
| Ichtyateus | genei        | Slender-billed Gull |
| Sterna     | sandvicensis | Sandwich Tern       |
| Upupa      | epops        | Hoopoe              |
| Alcedo     | atthis       | Kingfisher          |
| Merops     | apiaster     | Bee-eater           |

Mr Carmelo Muscat of Rabat, on 8 October

| Genus     | Species       | Vernacular (EN)   |
|-----------|---------------|-------------------|
| Anser     | canagicus     | Emperor Goose     |
| Alopochen | aegyptiaca    | Egyptian Goose    |
| Tadorna   | tadorna       | Shelduck          |
| Anas      | clypeata      | Northern Shoveler |
| Anas      | penelope      | Wigeon            |
| Anas      | penelope      | Wigeon            |
| Anas      | penelope      | Wigeon            |
| Anas      | platyrhynchos | Mallard           |
| Anas      | acuta         | Pintail           |
| Anas      | querquedula   | Garganey          |
| Adrea     | cinerea       | Grey Heron        |
| Pernis    | apivorus      | Honey Buzzard     |
| Circus    | aeruginosus   | Marsh Harrier     |
| Circus    | aeruginosus   | Marsh Harrier     |
| Falco     | subbuteo      | Hobby             |
| Falco     | vespertinus   | Red-footed Falcon |
| Merops    | apiaster      | Bee-eater         |
| Merops    | apiaster      | Bee-eater         |
| Otus      | scops         | Scops Owl         |
| Otus      | scops         | Scops Owl         |

|          |           |                  |
|----------|-----------|------------------|
| Asio     | flammaeus | Short-eared Owl  |
| Vanellus | vanellus  | Northern Lapwing |
| Sciurus  | vulgaris  | Red Squirrel     |
| Sciurus  | vulgaris  | Red Squirrel     |
| Capra    | hircus    | Goat (Head)      |

Mr Michael Mizzi of Fgura, on 28 November

| Genus       | species      | Vernacular (EN)       |
|-------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Anas        | querquedula  | Garganey              |
| Anas        | querquedula  | Garganey              |
| Coturnix    | coturnix     | Common Quail          |
| Calonectris | diomedea     | Scopoli's Shearwater  |
| Ardea       | purpurea     | Purple Heron          |
| Nycticorax  | nycticorax   | Night Heron           |
| Nycticorax  | nycticorax   | Night Heron           |
| Nycticorax  | nycticorax   | Night Heron           |
| Ardeola     | ralloides    | Squacco Heron         |
| Ixobrychus  | minutus      | Little Bittern        |
| Ixobrychus  | minutus      | Little Bittern        |
| Gallinula   | chloropus    | Moorhen               |
| Fulica      | atra         | Coot                  |
| Circus      | aeruginosus  | Marsh Harrier         |
| Circus      | aeruginosus  | Marsh Harrier         |
| Falco       | tinnunculus  | Common Kestrel        |
| Falco       | vespertinus  | Red-footed Falcon     |
| Vanellus    | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing      |
| Vanellus    | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing      |
| Vanellus    | vanellus     | Northern Lapwing      |
| Pluvialis   | apricaria    | Golden Plover         |
| Charadrius  | morinellus   | Dotterel              |
| Tringa      | totanus      | Redhank               |
| Numenius    | tenuirostris | Slender-billed Curlew |
| Scolopax    | rusticola    | Woodcock              |
| Gallinago   | media        | Great Snipe           |
| Gallinago   | media        | Great Snipe           |
| Lymnocyptes | minutus      | Jack Snipe            |

|              |                |                 |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Columba      | livia          | Domestic Pigeon |
| Columba      | livia          | Domestic Pigeon |
| Columba      | livia          | Domestic Pigeon |
| Streptopelia | roseogrisea    | Barbary Dove    |
| Cuculus      | canorus        | Common Cuckoo   |
| Tyto         | alba           | Barn Owl        |
| Asio         | flammaeus      | Short-eared Owl |
| Upupa        | epops          | Hoopoe          |
| Coracias     | garrulus       | Roller          |
| Coracias     | garrulus       | Roller          |
| Merops       | apiaster       | Bee-eater       |
| Apus         | apus           | Common Swift    |
| Turdus       | torquatus      | Ring Ouzel      |
| Turdus       | pilaris        | Fieldfare       |
| Turdus       | philomelos     | Song Thrush     |
| Monticola    | saxatilis      | Rock Thrush     |
| Oriolus      | oriolus        | Golden Oriole   |
| Oriolus      | oriolus        | Common Starling |
| Lanius       | senator        | Woodchat Shrike |
| Passer       | hispaniolensis | Spanish Sparrow |



The following carcasses were donated by the Wild Birds Regulation Unit on 7 December:

|                             |                       |    |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| <i>Puffinus yelkouan</i>    | Yelkouan Shearwater   | 1  |
| <i>Hydrobates pelagicus</i> | European Storm-petrel | 1  |
| <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>  | Cormorant             | 4  |
| <i>Falco eleonora</i>       | Eleonora's Falcon     | 1  |
| <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>    | Osprey                | 3  |
| <i>Larus michahellis</i>    | Yellow-legged Gull    | 14 |
| <i>Tyto alba</i>            | Barn Owl              | 3  |
| <i>Asio flammeus</i>        | Short-eared Owl       | 1  |

## Appendix IV

## Purchase of items for the Gozo Museum (Line Vote 5824)

| Object ID | Inventory no.        | Title   | Author   | Supplier                      | Price in €<br>(excl. taxes / shipping) |
|-----------|----------------------|---|--|-------------------------------|--|
| 82484-92  | G/<br>PPD/2022/01-09 | Nine drawings of Gozitan everyday life, late 1950s                                    | Michael Lawrence Cadman (1920-2010)  | Parker Fine Art Auctions      | 182.00 GBP                             |
| 82483     | G/<br>PPD/2022/10    | Rare book: La Colonna Traiana, 1846   | Erasmus Pistolesi, with 80 engraved plates by Salvatore Busuttil (1798-1854) | AbeBooks                      | 654.97                                 |
| 84520     | G/<br>PPD/2022/12    | Rare book: Voyage Pittoresque des Isles de Sicile, de Malta et de Lipari, 1782        | Jean Pierre Louis Laurent Houel (1735-1813)                                  | Obelisk Auctioneers & Valuers | 13,200.00                              |
| n/a       | n/a                  | Rare book: Oblighi tal Bniedem, 1826  | Patri F. Soave   | ProfWilliam Zammit            | 300.00                                 |
| n/a       | n/a                  | The personal library and other personal belongings of Joseph G. Huntingford (1926-94) | n/a  | Raymond Camilleri, Kappara    | 7,000.00                               |
| 85550     | G/<br>PPD/2022/13    | Drawing: Borgo S. Giorgio nell'Isola del Gozo, first half 19th c.                     | Giorgio Pullicino (1779-1851)  | Obelisk Auctioneers           | 6,400.00                               |
| n/a       | G/<br>PPD/2022/14    | Rare book: Ancient and Modern Malta, 1805   | Louis de Boisgelin   | Obelisk Auctioneers           | 6,500.00                               |

## Appendix V

### Acquisition of Cultural Heritage Items

#### I. Purchases

| Seller               | Object No. | Object description   | Price €  | Collection  |
|----------------------|------------|--|----------|-------------|
| Vassallo Auctioneers | 73156      | Early 20th-cent. handmade stole formerly of Mgr Apap Bologna (1883-1962)                       | 360.00   | Ethnography |
| Vassallo Auctioneers | 73157      | Mid-20th-cent. large Maltese lace centrepiece, Gerada design for Malta Industries              | 420.00   | Ethnography |
| Vassallo Auctioneers | 73158      | c. 1880 yellow ochre lady's long sleeve bodice   | 200.00   | Ethnography |
| Vassallo Auctioneers | 73159      | 19th-cent. fan with genuine handmade Brussels/Duchesse lace                                    | 630.00   | Ethnography |
| Gigi's Antiques      | 73147      | Qannic - a drying cabinet used in making of sundried tomatoes and gbejniet                     | 50.00    | Ethnography |
| Treasure Antiques    | 73310-24   | Fifteen photographs of Dr George Borg Olivier's state funeral                                  | 60.00    | Ethnography |
| Obelisk Auctions     | 73195      | Inquisition document issued on behalf of Inquisitor Angelo Maria Durini, signed and dated 1760 | 1,376.70 | Ethnography |
| Ms Tania Apap        | 73432      | 1850s cream coloured embroidered christening gown, a boy's cap, a girl's cap and a bag         | 200.00   | Ethnography |
| Obelisk Auctions     | 73435      | Early 20th-cent. cream colour silk Maltese lace fan  | 381.00   | Ethnography |
| Ms Anna Maria Gatt   | 74156-60   | Five clay statues in Maltese traditional clothes possibly by Anton Agius                       | 160.00   | Ethnography |
| ALS Malta            | 74219      | Acrylic on canvas painting of the Inquisitor's Palace  | 499.00   | Ethnography |
| Obelisk Auctions     | 74252      | Maltese silver Pinto period (1741-73) pistol handed serving fork                               | 381.24   | Ethnography |

|                             |              |  |         |                       |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--|---------|-----------------------|
| Obelisk Auctions            | 74253-54     | Two Maltese silver De Rohan period Maltese dinner knife with scallop-shape pattern   | 423.60  | Ethnography           |
| Mr Alberto Barzaghi         | 74255        | Late 18th/early 19th-century billiard table, probably of Italian production, formerly at Palazzo Lezze, Venice   | 3,900   | Ethnography           |
| Mr David George Copland     | 83440        | Rare silver claret jug – Trophy Yacht Race 1894  | 1748.80 | Malta Maritime Museum |
| In lieu of service provided | 84534        | Victorian rosewood travelling case with various crystal boxes  | n/a     | Malta Maritime Museum |
| In lieu of service provided | 81751-55     | Five printed calendars, each one bound in decorated patterns   | n/a     | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Catawiki.com                | 82500        | Print by Jan Harmensz Muller titled Belshazzar's feast   | 808     | MUŻA                  |
| Mr John Grima               | 67053, 67054 | Painting entitled Beyond Space 10 and Bronze sculpture Crucifix by John Grima  | 7,660   | MUŻA                  |
| Bonhams, London             | 82859, 82860 | A pair of carved limestone and plaster urns  | 5,743   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Matthew Schembri         | 84114        | Bureau   | 7,250   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Nico Conti               | 84115        | 3D printed high-fired porcelain titled of lace and porcelain: Curved Cathedral Arch  | 1,990   | MUŻA                  |
| Ms Margerita Pule           | 84105-84113  | Set of eight photos and a clip titled Cement Truck Procession  | 5,500   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Shaun Grech              | 84296-98     | Acrylic on canvas titled 'walking wounded', oil on board titled 'No prized possession just a tentacle for a head' and an oil and acrylic on canvas titled 'Bathroom ensuite ...' | 2,350   | MUŻA                  |
| Gallery Bassenge            | 83442-47     | Series of six out of twelve prints from the 15 <sup>th</sup> to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century, after Carle van Loo  | 2,108   | MUŻA                  |
| Bonhams London              | 82859-60     | Two carved 19th-century limestone and plaster vases  | 6,200   | MUŻA                  |

|                            |                |  |             |                    |
|----------------------------|----------------|--|-------------|--------------------|
| Catawiki.com               | 82500          | The banquet of Belshazzar, engraving by Jan Harmensz Muller  | 808.44      | MUŻA               |
| Ms Anna Maria Gatt         | 82917, 82918   | Two metal boxes one depicting Queen Elizabeth and the other depicting Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip        | 5.00        | Villa Guardamangia |
| Mr Stephen Warrington      | 85061-85064    | c.200 photographs, 10 signed letters, 15 letters regarding VGM and c.100 photographs regarding Joseph Schembri | 3,200       | Villa Guardamangia |
| Ebay                       | 83441          | 1920s postcard showing Fort St Angelo  | 7.14        | Fort St Angelo     |
| Obelisk Auctions           | 79916          | Bureau   | 1059        | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Obelisk Auctions           | 79973          | Domestic 18th-century prie-dieu in chestnut including one drawer and cupboard                                  | 953         | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | G PPD/2022/ II | Rare publication titled 'La Beata Vergine Ta Pinu in Gozo', 1891   | 130         | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Esther Johnson             | 55400          | 18th-century refectory-style table   | 1299.00 GBP | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Rare book 'Spiega tal Catechismu', 1900  | 80.00       | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Rare book 'Memorandum on the water supply in Malta and Gozo', 1876   | 120.00      | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Nine 'Gozo Year Books x 9 (1960-61, 1979-85)   | 140.00      | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Rare book 'In-Nadur', 1953   | 80.00       | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Rare book 'L-Isqof Giovanni Maria Camilleri'   | 40.00       | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Prof. William Zammit       | n/a            | Rare book 'Gozo' by Brian Blouet   | 60.00       | Gozo Ethnography   |
| Douwes Fine Art, Amsterdam | n/a            | Three paintings featuring Grand Masters Raymond du Puy, Blessed Gerard, and St Ubaldesca                       | 90,000.00   | Palace Armoury     |

**Purchases by Government entities**

| Artist              | Object number | Description                                     | Price € | Ministry  |
|---------------------|---------------|---|---------|---|
| Mr Thomas Scerri    | 81757-61      | Five mixed media on canvas paintings            | 3,700   | Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning |
| Ms Thea Vella       | 81762-65      | Four mixed media on canvas paintings            | 2,100   | Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning |
| Mr Victor Agius     | 81766         | Mixed media on canvas painting titled Terrea IV | 1,000   | Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning |
| Mr Mark Mallia      | 82857         | Għaliex tizni                                   | 990     | Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government        |
| Ms Etienne Farrell  | 82858         | Id-Difna ta' Ġesù                               | 750     | Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government        |
| Mr Clint Grech      | 83910         | Triton Fountain                                 | 360     | Ministry for Public Works                                 |
| Ms Joanna Barthelet | 83206         | Blonde in Gold                                  | 900     | Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government        |
| Mr Clint Grech      | 84324         | St Elmo breakwater/ lighthouse                  | 260     | Ministry of National Heritage and Local Government        |

**II. Donations**

| Donor             | Object No. | Object description   | Collection  |
|-------------------|------------|--|-------------|
| Ms Annamaria Gatt | 73152      | An invite to a cavalierly event in the Marsa Stadium by Agatha Barbara | Ethnography |
| Ms Annamaria Gatt | 73153      | A Christmas card and envelope from Dr Borg Olivier and his wife        | Ethnography |
| Unknown           | 73161      | One gallon candy/cracker mason jar                                     | Ethnography |
| Unknown           | 73162-65   | Two walnut crackers, bottle opener and a corkscrew                     | Ethnography |

|                         |                    |   |             |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Ms Margaret Borg        | 73198-99           | Two face masks with different designs sewn by Ms Borg   | Ethnography |
| Ms Josette Camilleri    | 73197              | Face mask with handmade Maltese lace  | Ethnography |
| Grupp Armar San Gejtanu | 73196, 73200       | Two facemasks: one with San Gejtanu on the right side and the other with San Gejtanu, Madonna and Child                           | Ethnography |
| Mr Pawlu Farrugia       | 73148-50, 73155    | Three ice-cream galvanised pales of varying sized and a shop key  | Ethnography |
| Mr Kenneth Gambin       | 73201-02           | 1950s Oxo tin box and 60s Thorne's Premier Toffee tin box   | Ethnography |
| Fr Alan Adami           | 73151, 73154       | Two paper tags in a blue lanyard used during 2021 Christmas Eve procession  | Ethnography |
| Ms Annamaria Gatt       | 73194              | Set of six Farex baby food measuring spoons   | Ethnography |
| Mr Joe Agius            | 73167-93           | Twenty-eight statuettes representing various Saints   | Ethnography |
| Mr Xavier Busuttil      | 73326              | Coffee coloured machine lace collar with flower motifs  | Ethnography |
| Mr Xavier Busuttil      | 73327              | Coffee coloured machine lace sailor styled collar   | Ethnography |
| Mr Xavier Busuttil      | 73328              | White machine lace baby collar  | Ethnography |
| Mr Xavier Busuttil      | 73329              | Cream coloured handmade crotchet baby bonnet  | Ethnography |
| Mr V. Bonello           | 73461, 73727-32    | An entire lot of jeweller's tools   | Ethnography |
| Ms Charlene Cachia      | 73332 i-iii        | A complete set of a 1990s white baby baptismal dress made up of satin dungaree, leggings including front bib, and a cotton jersey | Ethnography |
| Mr Mario Borg           | 73330 i-viii       | Baby's Christening set made up of cream coloured satin: dress, underdress, cape, bonnet, skull cap, bib and handkerchief          | Ethnography |
| Mr Carlo Cremona        | 73034<br>73203-37  | Stone mason's lathe torn and tools  | Ethnography |
| Mr Carlo Cremona        | 732299             | Wide fabric belt  | Ethnography |
| Ms Josianne Gauci       | 73238-62,<br>73325 | Collection of textiles including lace borders, towels, pillowcases, skirts and blouses  | Ethnography |
| Ms Marthese Borda       | 73378              | White face mask with the print and text 'Pope Francis in Malta'   | Ethnography |

|   |                    |  |             |
|---|--------------------|--|-------------|
| Ms Marthese Borda                       | 73379              | Miniature hand-held flag with the pope figure and text 'Merħba fir-Rabat ta' San Pawl'                               | Ethnography |
| Ms Marthese Borda                       | 73380              | Large balcony flag with the pope figure and text 'Merħba fir-Rabat ta' San Pawl'                                     | Ethnography |
| Ms Annamaria Gatt                       | 73389-90           | One 1950s high-class Thorne's Confectionary tin and a 1970s Crawford's Rover assorted biscuits tin                   | Ethnography |
| Mr Andrew Zammit Montebello             | 73331              | Small linen table cloth with handmade colourful parrots and flowers  | Ethnography |
| Mr Alfred Cachia                        | 73391-92           | A platform balance used on a farm for weighing animal fodder (baskula) and an Avery LTD steel yard balance (stasija) | Ethnography |
| Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodrigues           | 73166              | Agricultural ledger for Qormi  | Ethnography |
| Mr Felix Cachia                         | 73456-60           | Collection of barber tools incl. lather brush, 1940s hand clipper, razor, scissors, neck duster                      | Ethnography |
| Ms Joyce Callus                         | 73387, 73424-25    | 1948 communion dress, holy communion photo and a commemorative holy picture  | Ethnography |
| Ms Tess Ciantar                         | 70764              | Lace sample of Maltese meander bobbin lace border  | Ethnography |
| Mr Publius Scicluna                     | 73426              | One sanding blocker with sandpaper for Jeans   | Ethnography |
| Mr Tony Stivala                         | 73386              | 1960s peachy tulip colour stockings including original box titled Happy Christmas                                    | Ethnography |
| Ms Annamaria Gatt                       | 73433, 73434       | Red tie of Valletta FC and cream coloured calico shopping shoulder bag   | Ethnography |
| Mr Dennis Fenech o.b.o. Mr Frank Theuma | 73333-39, 73356-77 | Collection of objects ranging from textiles to ecclesiastical and miscellaneous items                                | Ethnography |
| Ms Bernadine Scicluna                   | 74163              | 1970s female brown and cream, art deco styled swimsuit   | Ethnography |
| Mr Neville Galea                        | 73784 i-ii         | Two maroon ties with HM embroidered logo   | Ethnography |
| Ms Charlene Marie Cilia                 | 73445-47           | Black satin clasp bag, roll of cotton Maltese weave, and a swaddle   | Ethnography |
| Mr Josef Sant o.b.o. Leli tal-Habs      | 73436              | Covid mask sewn by prisoners at the correctional facility  | Ethnography |

|  |  |  |             |
|--|--|--|-------------|
| Ms Annamaria Gatt                          | 74167  | Maltese woven tie, handwoven in Gozo, designed by Pat Holtom   | Ethnography |
| Ms Diane Kingston                          | 73438  | Mid-19th-cent. large black silk triangular Maltese bobbin lace shawl   | Ethnography |
| Mr Charles Dimech                          | 73671-726,<br>73783  | Collection of goldsmith tools  | Ethnography |
| Ms Jane and Maria Cilia                    | 73394-97<br>73398-99                                       | Clothes hangers, certificate to Paul Cilia, work booklet and photograph. Two boiler suits formerly of Paul Borg  | Ethnography |
| Mr John Attard                             | 74164-66   | Three pairs of late 1940s-early 1950s gloves   | Ethnography |
| Mr Hugo Agius Muscat and Ms Lucienne Cumbo | 73449-50, 74161-62   | A set of eight pieces of linen, two Maltese yard lace, roll of Maltese yard lace and eleven 20th-cent. scapulars   | Ethnography |
| Mr Pierre Bonello                          | 73400-11   | Collection of remembrance cards, secondary relics, wedding souvenir cards, holy picture cards, posters, certificates   | Ethnography |
| Mr Karmenu Pace                            | 73667-68,<br>73381-85, 74216-17,<br>73388, 73427,<br>73453 | Three woollen weaving shoulder bag, fifteen weaving fabrics, apron with Farsons advert, and a hand fan   | Ethnography |
| Ms Delia Lomax on behalf of MTA            | 73669, 73037-46,<br>73452,<br>73308-09                     | A collection of face masks and stationery with Visit Malta logo  | Ethnography |
| Mr George Zahra                            | 73047-304  | Collection of items related to the Maltese Carnival (VHS, Audio cassettes, CDs, music scores, posters, plaques, float models, drawing, certificates, emblems, trophies, and programmes | Ethnography |
| Ms Dolores Mazzelli                        | 73439-44,<br>74213-15                                      | Two swaddles, trousers complete with sash, gloves, christening dress and bow ties, a vanity bag, and three photographs   | Ethnography |
| Ms Simonide Rancati Chapelle               | 74168 i-iv   | Christening set: satin padded cape, swaddle, bag, and baby bonnet  | Ethnography |
| Ms Marvic Zammit                           | n/a  | Souvenir of Malta postcard book  | Ethnography |
| Mr John Bajada                             | 74210, 73437   | Two HM uniforms 2004-20, 1990-2004   | Ethnography |
| Dr Chev George A. Said Zammit              | 73347  | Special rescue group medal – fifteen years of service 1991-2006  | Ethnography |

|  |                     |  |                       |
|--|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Dr Chev George A. Said Zammit              | 73428-30            | Uniform of the Hospitaller Order of St Lazarus of Jerusalem  | Ethnography           |
| Mr Nazzareno Fenech o.b.o. Ms Katie Attard | 73451, 74220-32     | 1965 wedding dress, two invitations and twelve wedding photos  | Ethnography           |
| Mr Arnold Grima                            | 67078               | Two sets of Malta customs uniforms, one white shirt, one extra jacket, cap and four badges   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr J. Saliba                               | 66640, 66636, 66637 | Late 18th-/early 19th-century stiletto, 19th-century French dagger, 17th-/18th-century French dagger   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Dr Giovanni Bonello                        | In process          | Collection of 1,428 photographs and postcards of warships and submarines in Malta harbours 1880s-1970s   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Carmel Bonnici                          | 81749               | Four sets of Luzzu sails   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Richard Garzia                          | 81750               | Declaration of employment for Richard Vella at Malta's Grand Harbour breakwater  | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Ms Mary Grace Thornton                     | 82332               | 1941 Kriegsmarine Trommel Sextant (nine parts): wooden box, sextant, cloth, two pins, three certificates and notes                                     | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Chev. Pier Giorgio Buttigieg               | 82477-80            | One document with medal, one British flag, one telescope with brown leather case, three photographs  | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Ms Mary Grace Thornton                     | 82598               | One brass ruler marked U.W.W with the original box   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Carmelo Portelli                        | 82835               | Small wooden box, with tools made during apprenticeship in the Dockyard  | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Ms Josianne Gauci                          | 81756               | One black ribbon with gold colour print text HMS <i>Cornwallis</i>   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Stephen Saliba                          | 83874               | Wooden Model of Lanċa tal-pass   | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Ms Iris Bonello                            | 84421               | A map of Valletta Harbours 1909  | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Joseph Micallef                         | 85433-67            | A collection of badges, buttons, pins, letter opener, whistle, holster, certificates, sherry glass, notebooks, diaries, accounts, and membership cards | Malta Maritime Museum |

|                                 |              |  |                       |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|-----------------------|
| Ms Margaret Abdilla Cunningham  | 85514-28     | Twelve photographs (nine black and white and three showing the Soviet Cruiser Slava), one postcard, one pass, one green card, one membership card, a handbook, and a press information card belonging to Mr Joseph Gauci | Malta Maritime Museum |
| Mr Steven & Ms Patricia Risiott | 82331        | Artwork that consists of one video clip AKKA saved on pendrive   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Massimo and Ms Fabiola Preca | 82388        | Oil on canvas painting 'White table with bowl' by Giorgio Preca  | MUŻA                  |
| Ms Etienne Farrell              | 82916        | Blackout textile print titled Ella   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Laurent Nicolai              | 82665        | Lithograph titled Limoges Suite  | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Noel Attard                  | 82915        | Mixed media artwork titled The Beast   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Alfred Camilleri             | 83701        | Stretched canvas titled Terrum   | MUŻA                  |
| Mr Anthony Mallia               | 84514        | The folly of man   | MUŻA                  |
| Dr Joseph Paul Cassar           | 83830-31     | Two untitled drawings by Joseph Paul Cassar  | MUŻA                  |
| Ms Margaret Abdilla Cunningham  | 82856        | Small souvenir plate commemorating the Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II  | Villa Guardamangia    |
| Ms Josianne Gauci               | 67067-67077  | Eleven newspapers 3 May 1954 - 10 May 1954   | Villa Guardamangia    |
| Ms Annamaria Gatt               | 82917, 82918 | Two metal boxes depicting Queen Elizabeth II and the other Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip   | Villa Guardamangia    |
| Mr Charles Gauci                | 82847        | Manual of Seamanship Vol.I pertaining to late Petty officer Joseph Gauci, 1937   | Fort St Angelo        |
| Mr Charles Gauci                | 82846        | Set of four RN photos pertaining to Late petty officer Joseph Gauci  | Fort St Angelo        |
| Mr Charles Gauci                | 82845        | Set of six RN documents pertaining to the late Petty Officer Joseph Gauci  | Fort St Angelo        |
| Mr Charles Galea                | 82844        | Set of epaulettes and admiral cap, including metal box, of commander John Graham Bower, 1920s  | Fort St Angelo        |
| Ms Sue Lucas                    | n/a          | Original Grand Harbour plan including Royal Navy facilities  | Fort St Angelo        |
| Ms Sue Lucas                    | n/a          | Original Grand Harbour plan including bird's eye view  | Fort St Angelo        |
| Ms Sue Lucas                    | n/a          | Set of three candlesticks presented by HMS St Angelo wives to Capt. Alan David Hastings Jay  | Fort St Angelo        |

|                           |                           |  |                     |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Ms Doreen Abela           | 83202-83204               | Two helmets and a military blanket                               | National War Museum |
| San Lawrenz Primary, Gozo | 85342                     | Two British Empire lamp posts, originally on Gharb parish parvis | Gozo Ethnography    |
| Joseph Gerada             | G/ETHN/CER/94-100, 102-03 | Lot of ceramic kitchenware                                       | Gozo Ethnography    |
| Joseph Gerada             | G/ETHN/G/19-20            | Two decorative glass shades                                      | Gozo Ethnography    |
| Joseph Gerada             | n/a                       | Lot of 20th-century clothing items and accessories               | Gozo Ethnography    |
| Joseph Gerada             | G/ETHN/M/182-88, 201-02   | Various 20th-century pots and pans                               | Gozo Ethnography    |

### III. Transfers

| Object No          | Object  | From                               | To                             |
|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 73161              | Glass 1-gallon candy/cracker mason jar  | Malta Maritime Museum              | National Museum of Ethnography |
| 73162-65           | Ornate walnut cracker<br>Standard walnut cracker<br>Bottle opener with corkscrew<br>Corkscrew with wooden handle  | National Museum of Archaeology     | National Museum of Ethnography |
| 73393              | Framed paper with following text: This torch was used by a Maltese schoolboy to light the flame of dedication which burned in homage to the flag of Malta ... Independence Arena, 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 1964 | National Museum of Natural History | National Museum of Ethnography |
| 11283, 10725       | Oil can<br>Egg timer  | National Museum of Ethnography     | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 82919-22, 82838-40 | Seven citations   | MUŻA                               | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 82923              | Card describing ten donated medals of Colonel Victor G. Vella   | MUŻA                               | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 82836              | One medal   | MUŻA                               | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 82837              | One display case with ten medals  | MUŻA                               | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 84471              | One 20th-century desk   | PPS office, OPM                    | Malta Maritime Museum          |
| 84472              | One 19th-century desk   | PPS office, OPM                    | Malta Maritime Museum          |

|            |   |                 |                       |
|------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 83426      | Seal Alessandro Giovanni Ball with metal support                            | PPS office, OPM | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 83428      | Seal Alessandro Giovanni Ball without metal support                         | PPS office, OPM | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 83427      | Seal Alessandro Giovanni Ball comandante dei Maltesi e delle truppe alleati | PPS office, OPM | Malta Maritime Museum |
| In process | A collection of documents concerning the French period in Malta             | MUŻA            | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 84809      | Six weights   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 84810-15   | Six iron branding tools   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 84816-21   | Six black measuring buckets   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66695      | Korean gong bell  | Police Depot    | Grand Master's Palace |
| 66696      | Large Tal-Wejba measure (round)   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66697      | Large Tal-Wejba measure (square)  | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66698      | One large measuring bucket  | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66699      | Weighing scales Pace Parnis 1928  | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66700      | Weighing scales Pace Parnis 1929 incl. 12 weights                           | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66701      | Stasija weighing beam   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66702      | Stasija weighing beam + 2 Romani  | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66703      | Iron branding tool  | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66704      | Four sets British weights marked WD   | Police Depot    | National War Museum   |
| 66705      | British weighing scales   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66706      | British weighing scales   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66707      | British weighing scales   | Police Depot    | Malta Maritime Museum |

|       |  |              |                       |
|-------|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| 66708 | Nine single pieces of weights                                    | Police Depot | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66709 | Two blankets marked with chicken's foot                          | Police Depot | Conservation lab      |
| 66710 | Measuring rod marked Hal Far MT petrol                           | Police Depot | National War Museum   |
| 66711 | Wooden chair (ex Ta' Kandja chapel)                              | Police Depot | Fort St Elmo          |
| 66712 | Ex-hospital wooden weighing chair                                | Police Depot | Malta Maritime Museum |
| 66713 | Gala washing machine (ex Ġiga case)                              | Police Depot | Conservation lab      |
| 66714 | Garter wooden shield   | Police Depot | Grand Master's Palace |
| 66715 | Set of four wooden chairs  | Police Depot | CMU                   |
| 72905 | Saddle - diplomatic gift, from Col. Gaddafi to President Demarco | Police Depot | Conservation lab      |





Part of Us



AUDITED  
ACCOUNTS

## Directors' Report

The Board presents their report and the audited financial statements of Heritage Malta ("the Agency") and consolidated financial statements of the Group for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### Principal Activities

Heritage /'dalta was set up in 2002 under the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002 and entrusted with the management of national museums and heritage sites and their collections in Malta and Gozo - including seven UNESCO World Heritage sites. The Agency is responsible for ensuring that those elements of cultural heritage entrusted to it are protected and made accessible to the public as well as conserving and restoring cultural property within its portfolio. It also provides training in conservation, education, research and consultation. It strives to create public awareness through displays, exhibition, thematic events, public relations and other initiatives.

### Review of operations

Directors noted that 2022 has been a positive year of tangible successes for Heritage Malta. A year that somewhat started off on the wrong foot due to the Covid-19 restrictions which were still in force, but that saw a tremendous turn for the better once restrictions were lifted and life returned to some semblance of normality.

The face-to-face public interaction that lacked during those long Covid months, was made up for with a remarkable amount of work behind the scenes. February saw the signing of a new collective agreement for Heritage Malta employees, balancing their needs with the Agency's sustainability and bringing about improvement and innovation in all aspects. Besides improved working conditions and increased wages, the new agreement is committed towards the continuous professional development of employees, through internal training and coaching by outside sources. Heritage Malta's employees are entrusted with the noble mission of protecting our country's patrimony and it is crucial to provide them with benefits that ensure their contentment at the workplace.

In tandem with the collective agreement, an internal restructuring exercise was conducted during the year under review. The need for this new structure arose due to the Agency's growth, not only in terms of workforce size but also with the increase in the number of sites and collections managed by Heritage Malta, all hinged to the expectations of visitors and of the public. There have been considerable changes in the environment within which the Agency operates as well — due to the pandemic and to the competitive forces all around — giving rise to the need for the Agency to consolidate its operations and to restructure itself. Heritage Malta's restructuring exercise included, inter alia, the creation of new positions within its hierarchy, the establishment of new departments and the merging of others, as well as the implementation of the new concept of "experience development".

Undoubtedly, one of the most significant milestones for Heritage Malta in 2022 was the launch of its new brand identity, heralding the Agency's entry into a new era with the slogan 'Part of Us'. Far from simply a new look, rebranding exercise marked the beginning of a new chapter in Heritage Malta's story, where the Agency ventures into new areas while remaining loyal to its roots and mission. The

Agency wants to shift away from the idea of the museum as a static showcase, and move towards dynamic, people-focused museology; ensure that design and interpretation are based on the needs, wants and expectations of the audience; the Agency wants its museums and sites to come alive with the creation and exchange of information and ideas. The Agency must continue to strengthen what was achieved so far thanks to the investment in technology, including the digitisation of and a management system for the National Collection, software for the management of human resources and other internal processes, and the best equipment for the Diagnostic Science Laboratories.

As previously mentioned, 2022 is still deemed a pandemic year, since normal operations only resumed in May, meaning that the Agency missed out on one of the busiest visitor periods. Despite this, the Agency's overall performance during the year in question has been very encouraging, with positive results across the board that augur well for 2023 and beyond, not just in terms of visitors and revenue but also as far as employee performance goes. Indeed, 2022 was brimming with projects and initiatives, a full events calendar and a very good public response as attested by the statistics published in this annual report. The public's engagement, both physically and online, was and still is utterly heartening.

Sustained by last year's promising result, by the product and the experience the Agency offers, as well as by tourism forecasts, the Directors all look forward optimistically to another fruitful year

### **Financial allocation**

The Agency finances its operations through revenues, mainly from admission fees to museums and sites, and also from a Government subvention. The net revenue generated from admissions fees by the Agency in 2022 amounted to €6,045,328 (2021: €2,875,215).

A government subvention of €12,063,045 (2021: €12,141,594) was received to meet the Agency's administrative expenditure for the financial year ended 31 December 2022.

Furthermore, an amount of €155,738 (2021: €361,693) is paid to Government as rent on various sites and premises occupied by Heritage Malta. Following the changes in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002, Heritage Malta is to enter into site entrustment agreements with the Department of Lands for the management of all the Museums and Historical sites under its remit. The Agency is to proceed with these agreements during the year 2023.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote XIV in the Government's financial estimates of 2022 covering the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. These include €1,750,000 (2021: €1,876,063) relating to improvements at museums and historical sites under Vote 7033. Additional funds amounting to €7,780,000 (2021: 1,000,000) for the restoration of Grand Master's Palace under Vote 7965. Other funds were allocated for the acquisition of Maltese artwork, national monuments, restoration of Malta Maritime Museum and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit.

The Agency's subsidiary, Heritage Malta Services Limited (C 31260), serves as its commercial arm for activities. Its main activities include the hiring out of venues for functions, promoting a patrons

program and other day-to-day revenue generating operations. The net revenue generated through Heritage Malta Services Limited amounted to €800,763 (2021: €257,934).

The Agency's sub-subsidiary, DigiArc Limited (C 100261), which was incorporated on 02 December 2021 provides digitalisation and archaeological services. Revenue generated through DigiArc Limited amounted to €67,144.

## Results

The Agency and the Group registered a surplus for the year of €858,962 (2021: deficit of €1,414,283) and €1,005,476 (2021: deficit of €1,358,215) respectively.

## Directors

The following are the details of individuals who have served as Directors of the Agency during the year under review and up to date of authorisation of these financial statements:

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Mr Mario Cutajar - Chairman</b>           | appointed as Chairman on 13 June 2022   |
| <b>Mr Anthony Scicluna - Deputy Chairman</b> | resigned as Chairman on 12 June 2022 and appointed as Deputy Chairman on 13 June 2022 |
| <b>Dr Graham Busuttil - Vice-Chairman</b>    | resigned on 12 June 2022  |
| <b>Ms Antoinette Caruana</b>                 | appointed on 13 June 2022   |
| <b>Mr Jorge Grech</b>                        | appointed on 13 June 2022   |
| <b>Mr Charles Hili</b>                       | appointed on 13 June 2022   |
| <b>Mr Demi Agius</b>                         | appointed on 28 July 2022   |
| <b>Prof. Joann Cassar</b>                    |   |
| <b>Ms Leanne Abela Grech</b>                 |   |
| <b>Mr Etienne Schembri</b>                   | appointed on 03 October 2022  |
| <b>Mr Ayrton Mifsud</b>                      | resigned on 12 June 2022  |
| <b>Mr Roderick Portelli</b>                  | resigned on 12 June 2022  |
| <b>Dr Gerald Montanaro Gauci</b>             | resigned on 12 June 2022  |
| <b>Mr Stephen Sultana</b>                    | resigned on 12 June 2022  |

In accordance with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002, the Directors are appointed for such term and under such terms and conditions as the responsible Minister may deem proper, and they are eligible for re-appointment.

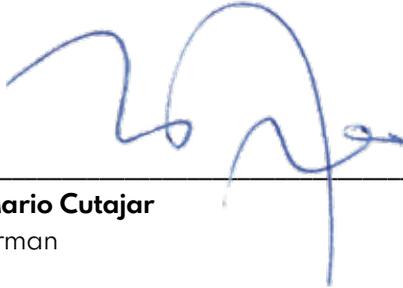
## Secretary

The following are the details of individual who has served as the Secretary to the Board of Directors: Ms Michelle Delceppo

## Auditors

Capstone Assurance Ltd, Registered Auditors, have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

Approved by the Board on 26 April 2023.



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**Mr Mario Cutajar**  
Chairman



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**Mr Anthony Scicluna**  
Deputy Chairman

## Registered address:

35, Heritage Malta Head Office,  
Ex Royal Naval Hospital  
Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi,  
Il-Kalkara, KRR 1280  
Malta

## Statement of Directors' Responsibilities

The Directors' of the Agency are required by the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002 to prepare the annual financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Group and the Agency at the end of each financial period and of its profit or loss for that period. In preparation of the annual financial statements, the Directors' are required to:

- Select and apply appropriate accounting policies;
- Make judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the EU; and
- Prepare the annual financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Agency will continue in business.

The Directors are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Agency and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Cultural Heritage Act, 2002. The Directors are also responsible for ensuring that an appropriate system of internal control is in operation to provide them with reasonable assurance that the assets of the Agency are being properly safeguarded and that fraud and other irregularities will be prevented or detected.

The financial statements of Heritage Malta for the year ended 31 December 2022 are included in the Annual Report 2022, which is published in hard-copy printed form and may be available in soft copy on the Heritage Malta's website. The Directors are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the Annual Report on the website in view of their responsibility for the controls over, and the security of, the website. Access to information published on the Agency's website is available in other countries and jurisdictions, where legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from requirements or practice in Malta.

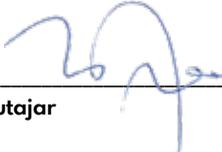
### Income and Expenditure Accounts

|   | Consolidated      |            | Agency            |            |
|---|-------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|
|   | 2022              | 2021       | 2022              | 2021       |
| Notes   | €                 | €          | €                 | €          |
| Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure | <b>12,063,045</b> | 12,141,594 | <b>12,063,045</b> | 12,141,594 |
| Income from operations                                      | <b>8,449,385</b>  | 4,044,001  | <b>7,593,946</b>  | 3,786,067  |
| Funds available for recurrent expenditure                   | <b>20,512,430</b> | 16,185,595 | <b>19,656,991</b> | 15,927,661 |
| Staff costs   | <b>10,136,830</b> | 9,767,208  | <b>9,893,215</b>  | 9,688,617  |
| Other recurrent operational expenditure                     | <b>8,782,475</b>  | 6,984,028  | <b>8,548,359</b>  | 6,939,412  |
| Recurrent administrative expenditure                        | <b>374,564</b>    | 665,056    | <b>226,985</b>    | 617,379    |
| Finance costs   | <b>129,470</b>    | 97,952     | <b>129,470</b>    | 97,952     |
| Finance income  | -                 | 1,416      | -                 | 1,416      |
| Surplus/(deficit) before taxation                           | <b>1,089,091</b>  | 1,327,233  | <b>858,962</b>    | 1,414,283  |
| Taxation  | <b>83,615</b>     | 30,982     | -                 |            |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year                    | <b>1,005,476</b>  | 1,358,215  | <b>858,962</b>    | 1,414,283  |

There were no transactions to be reported as 'Other Comprehensive Income' during the year.

## Statement of Financial Position

| Notes                                   | Consolidated      |                   | Agency            |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|   | 2022              | 2021              | 2022              | 2021              |
|   | €                 | €                 | €                 | €                 |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                           |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Non-current assets</b>               |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Property, plant and equipment           | 39,792,081        | 25,884,629        | 39,717,864        | 25,803,598        |
| Intangible assets                       | 30,817            |                   | 30,817            |                   |
| Investment in subsidiary                | -                 |                   | 4,959             | 4,959             |
| <b>Total non-current assets</b>         | <b>39,822,898</b> | <b>25,884,629</b> | <b>39,753,640</b> | <b>25,808,557</b> |
| <b>Current assets</b>                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Inventories                             | 608,384           | 641,951           | 608,384           | 641,951           |
| Trade and other receivables             | 1,068,029         | 2,062,506         | 863,869           | 1,951,613         |
| Current tax receivable                  | 1,486             | 1,486             |                   |                   |
| Cash and cash equivalents               | 4,496,626         | 2,939,136         | 3,897,260         | 2,567,774         |
| <b>Total current assets</b>             | <b>6,174,525</b>  | <b>5,645,079</b>  | <b>5,369,513</b>  | <b>5,161,338</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                     | <b>45,997,423</b> | <b>31,529,708</b> | <b>45,123,153</b> | <b>30,969,895</b> |
| <b>RESERVES AND LIABILITIES</b>         |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Reserves</b>                         |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Capital vote                            | 28,634,610        | 18,758,615        | 28,634,610        | 18,758,615        |
| Recurrent vote and operating activities | 1,647,438         | (277,774)         | 1,103,986         | (675,012)         |
| <b>Total reserves</b>                   | <b>30,282,048</b> | <b>18,480,841</b> | <b>29,738,596</b> | <b>18,083,603</b> |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Non-current liabilities</b>          |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Deferred income                         | 9,272,827         | 6,560,219         | 9,272,827         | 6,560,219         |
| Lease liability                         | 686,478           | 919,819           | 686,478           | 919,819           |
| Specific endowment funds                | 685,764           | 881,827           | 685,764           | 881,827           |
| <b>Total non-current liabilities</b>    | <b>10,645,069</b> | <b>8,361,865</b>  | <b>10,645,069</b> | <b>8,361,865</b>  |
| <b>Current liabilities</b>              |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| Lease liability                         | 243,928           | 202,257           | 243,928           | 202,257           |
| Provisions                              | 586,992           | 1,187,294         | 586,992           | 1,187,294         |
| Specific endowment funds                | 144,215           | 66,081            | 144,215           | 66,081            |
| Current tax payable                     | 31,443            | 5,619             |                   |                   |
| Trade and other payables                | 4,063,728         | 3,225,751         | 3,764,353         | 3,068,795         |
| <b>Total current liabilities</b>        | <b>5,070,306</b>  | <b>4,687,002</b>  | <b>4,739,488</b>  | <b>4,524,427</b>  |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>                | <b>15,715,375</b> | <b>13,048,867</b> | <b>15,384,557</b> | <b>12,886,292</b> |
| <b>TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>     | <b>45,997,423</b> | <b>31,529,708</b> | <b>45,123,153</b> | <b>30,969,895</b> |



Mr Mario Cutajar  
Chairman



Mr Anthony Scicluna  
Deputy Chairman

**Statement of Changes in Equity**

|   | Agency            |   |                       |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------------------|
|   | Capital Vote<br>€ | Recurrent vote and<br>operating activities<br>€ | Accumulated fund<br>€ |
| Balance as at 01 January 2021                 | 16,905,356        | (70,281)  | 16,835,075            |
| Deficit for the year                          | -                 | (1,414,283)                                     | (1,414,283)           |
| Capital subvention for the year<br>(note 15)  | 2,662,811         | -   | 2,662,811             |
| Transfer of depreciation from<br>capital vote | (809,552)         | 809,552   | -                     |
| <b>Balance as at 31 December 2021</b>         | <b>18,758,615</b> | <b>(675,012)</b>                                | <b>18,083,603</b>     |
| <b>Balance as at 01 January 2022</b>          | <b>18,758,615</b> | <b>(675,012)</b>                                | <b>18,083,603</b>     |
| Deficit for the year                          | -                 | 858,962   | 858,962               |
| Capital subvention for the year<br>(note 15)  | 10,796,031        | -   | 10,796,031            |
| Transfer of depreciation from<br>capital vote | (920,036)         | 920,036   | -                     |
| <b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>         | <b>28,634,610</b> | <b>1,103,986</b>                                | <b>29,738,596</b>     |

|   | Consolidated      |  |                       |
|---|-------------------|--|-----------------------|
|   | Capital Vote<br>€ | Recurrent vote<br>and operating<br>activities<br>€ | Accumulated fund<br>€ |
| Balance as at 01 January 2021                 | 16,905,356        | 270,589  | 17,175,945            |
| Deficit for the year                          | -                 | (1,358,215)  | (1,358,215)           |
| Capital subvention for the year<br>(note 15)  | 2,662,811         | -  | 2,662,811             |
| Transfer of depreciation from<br>capital vote | (809,552)         | 809,552  | -                     |
| <b>Balance as at 31 December 2021</b>         | <b>18,758,615</b> | <b>(277,774)</b>                                   | <b>18,480,841</b>     |
| <b>Balance as at 01 January 2022</b>          | <b>18,758,615</b> | <b>(277,774)</b>                                   | <b>18,480,841</b>     |
| Deficit for the year                          | -                 | 1,005,476  | 1,005,476             |
| Capital subvention for the year<br>(note 15)  | 10,796,031        | -  | 10,796,031            |
| Transfer of depreciation from<br>capital vote | (920,036)         | 920,036  | -                     |
| <b>Balance as at 31 December 2022</b>         | <b>28,634,610</b> | <b>1,647,438</b>                                   | <b>30,282,048</b>     |

## Statement of Cash Flows

|  | Consolidated        |                  | Agency              |                  |
|--|---------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
|  | 2022                | 2021             | 2022                | 2021             |
| Note   | €                   | €                | €                   | €                |
| Cash flows from operating activities:              |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| Surplus/(deficit) for the year before taxation     | <b>1,089,091</b>    | (1,327,233)      | <b>858,962</b>      | (1,414,283)      |
| Adjustments for:                                   |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| Depreciation                                       | <b>1,496,170</b>    | 1,353,063        | <b>1,473,791</b>    | 1,340,316        |
| Amortisation                                       | <b>10,272</b>       |                  | <b>10,272</b>       |                  |
| Interest income                                    | -                   | (1,416)          | -                   | (1,416)          |
| Interest expense                                   | <b>59,728</b>       | 53,344           | <b>59,728</b>       | 53,344           |
| Provisions   | <b>(600,302)</b>    | 70,000           | <b>(600,302)</b>    | 70,000           |
| Surplus from operations                            | <b>2,054,959</b>    | 147,758          | <b>1,802,451</b>    | 47,961           |
| Change in inventories                              | <b>33,567</b>       | 21,446           | <b>33,567</b>       | 21,446           |
| Change in trade and other receivables              | <b>994,477</b>      | 1,194,396        | <b>1,087,744</b>    | 1,156,736        |
| Change in trade and other payables                 | <b>837,977</b>      | (2,213,459)      | <b>695,558</b>      | (2,205,207)      |
| Income tax paid                                    | <b>(58,091)</b>     | (41,195)         | -                   |                  |
| Net cash flows (used in)/from operating activities | <b>3,862,889</b>    | (891,054)        | <b>3,619,320</b>    | (979,064)        |
| Cash flows from investing activities:              |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment         | <b>(15,403,622)</b> | (5,135,757)      | <b>(15,388,057)</b> | (5,062,823)      |
| Additions to intangible assets                     | <b>(41,089)</b>     |                  | <b>(41,089)</b>     |                  |
| Interests received                                 | -                   | 1,416            | -                   | 1,416            |
| Acquisition of subsidiary                          |                     | (1,200)          |                     |                  |
| Net cash flows used in investing activities        | <b>(15,444,711)</b> | (5,135,541)      | <b>(15,429,146)</b> | (5,061,407)      |
| Cash flows from financing activities:              |                     |                  |                     |                  |
| Capital subvention from government                 | <b>10,796,031</b>   | 2,662,940        | <b>10,796,031</b>   | 2,662,940        |
| Specific endowment funds                           | <b>(117,929)</b>    | (40,667)         | <b>(117,929)</b>    | (40,667)         |
| Lease liability repayments                         | <b>(251,398)</b>    | (380,490)        | <b>(251,398)</b>    | (380,490)        |
| ERDF/EEA and Norway grants                         | <b>2,712,608</b>    | 2,063,218        | <b>2,712,608</b>    | 2,063,218        |
| Net cash flows from financing activities           | <b>13,139,312</b>   | 4,305,001        | <b>13,139,312</b>   | 4,305,001        |
| Net cash from/(used in) during the year            | <b>1,557,490</b>    | (1,721,594)      | <b>1,329,486</b>    | (1,735,470)      |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year     | <b>2,939,136</b>    | 4,660,730        | <b>2,567,774</b>    | 4,303,244        |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>    | <b>4,496,626</b>    | <b>2,939,136</b> | <b>3,897,260</b>    | <b>2,567,774</b> |

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