



ANNUAL REPORT 2024





**Heritage
Malta**

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Publication Details

Editing: Noel Zammit and Kenneth Gambin

ISBN: 978-9918-627-40-0

Acknowledgements: Heritage Malta Chairman, Board of Directors, CEO, COO, and staff members in the Conservation, Curatorial, Technology and Experience Development, Projects Divisions.

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Foreword

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that we present Heritage Malta's annual report for 2024 – another remarkable year filled with significant achievements, ambitious projects, and strengthened commitments to preserving and celebrating our nation's rich cultural heritage.

Our mission of accessibility continued to bear the desired fruit, with our museums and sites attracting over 1.6 million paying visitors during the year under review – figures that surpass the previous year's by more than 281,000. Equated with 2023, the entire market segments of paying admissions soared by an average of 24%. A stunning increase of 48% was noted in the number of senior admissions, the adult segment expanded by 14%, while the student and the child categories registered an increase of 10% and 23% respectively.

These numbers were the culmination of a collective effort towards greater community engagement – an effort aided by a packed events calendar, amongst other initiatives. Comprising more than 100 activities for all age groups, our calendar offered an array of events ranging from cooking sessions and special openings of normally closed sites, to boat tours, lectures, guided walks, equinox and solstice experiences, and exclusive activities for members, to name but a few. Additionally, we extended the opening hours of five prominent Heritage Malta sites in summer, allowing visitors to make the most of longer daylight hours and giving them ample time to explore these sites at a relaxed pace.

The year started off spectacularly, as January saw the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta reopen its doors following a major restoration project which was the most ambitious one of its kind undertaken by the agency to date. The project entailed the restoration of the Piano Nobile corridors, the Armoury's relocation back to its original place, the creation of a visitor centre in the area known as Palazzo del Monte and the Orangerie, and the restoration of the courtyards and the state halls, amongst others. The public's response has been outstanding, as attested by visitor statistics for the Palace since its resumption of operations.

Another reopening happened in February, albeit partially, when the exhibition *An Island at the Crossroads* was launched at the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu, marking the completion of the initial phase of the restoration project currently underway at the museum. Various initiatives linked to the exhibition were taken throughout the year. These included new educational material for young visitors, aimed at deepening their understanding of our oceans' critical role in preserving cultural heritage, as well as a series of very well-attended public talks by ex-Malta Drydocks workers.

The year 2024 will also remain memorable for the launch of two other exhibitions by Heritage Malta. This was the year that saw the Cippi of Malta reunited in the country where they were separated in 1782, when one of them was gifted to France. The long-awaited reunion was made possible thanks to the exhibition *The Cippi of Malta – Their Story and Voyage* at the National Museum of Archaeology, illuminating ongoing mysteries about the Cippi's origins as scholars continue to explore when and how they first arrived in Malta.

The other exhibition, Betrayal and Vengeance: The Slaves' Conspiracy of 1749 in 19 historical drawings, marked the 275th anniversary of the historic failed revolt and was inaugurated at the Inquisitor's Palace and National Museum of Ethnography. The exhibition centred around a set of numbered paintings, recently restored by Heritage Malta, which illustrate the severe crackdown that ensued after the failure of the famous plot.

In 2024, Heritage Malta lived up to its promise to start transforming Villa Portelli in Kalkara into a multipurpose space accessible for public enjoyment. The masterplan for the rehabilitation of the villa and its gardens was completed, and parts of the gardens were opened to the public in December. Villa Portelli is now open for free every Sunday and hosts other activities regularly in order to sustain community engagement.

Internally, Heritage Malta has continued with its restructuring process, focusing on the consolidation of several departments and the creation of new ones. The latter include the Customer Relations Department, through which the agency intends to build and develop long-term customer loyalty and client retention. A restructuring process within the Projects Unit and the Research, Collections and Knowledge Management Unit has also been implemented, in line with our commitment to sustain operational excellence and adapt to the evolving business environment in which we work.

Throughout the year under review, Heritage Malta remained committed to leveraging the latest technologies to enhance both its internal operations and the management of the national cultural heritage assets under its care. To this effect, the agency successfully launched a state-of-the-art Collections Management System (CMS), which serves as the primary platform for cataloguing digitised items within the national collection. Through this system, the agency also facilitates public access to these artefacts via digital platforms, significantly expanding their reach. In parallel, the agency has also undertaken the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, designed to streamline operations across key areas such as human resources, finance, procurement, and project management. This integrated approach is expected to yield significant cost efficiencies and operational improvements.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our team, the unwavering support of our partners and stakeholders, and the enthusiasm of the community we serve. Their contributions have been instrumental in making this year a resounding success. Looking ahead, the future is bright. With new initiatives on the horizon, continued investment in technology and innovation, and an ever-growing network of collaborators, we are poised to expand our impact even further. Our commitment to cultural preservation remains steadfast, and we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead, in 2025 and beyond. As you explore this report, we invite you to reflect on the milestones we have achieved together and to share our optimism for the future.



Noel Zammit
Chief Executive Officer

CAPITAL
WORKS

Cottonera Region

The working group established last year to plan the development of the **HM Head Office** has designed the masterplan. Preliminary consultation meetings have been held with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the Planning Authority, and the Environment and Resources Authority following which the design is being developed further.



A planning permit has been issued for a new substation to cater for the current and additional demand. Actual construction and installation works are planned for 2025. The restoration of the Smoking Shed is at an advanced stage and should be completed by mid-2025. A tender has been issued for the demolition of accretions and restoration of the entire Surgical Block. The tender is currently being evaluated and works shall start on award. Further works are being carried out on the perimeter wall overlooking Rinella Bay which had collapsed in 2023. Infrastructure Malta, through its contractor, after clearing all the debris from the area behind the collapsed wall, is carrying out



Top: Restoration works at Bighi,
Above: Works on the perimeter wall overlooking Rinella Bay

works on the foundation quay at Rinella Bay. In the meantime, discussions have started with Infrastructure Malta and Xjenza Malta to plan the restoration of the whole perimeter wall surrounding the peninsula. A planning application is being prepared in this respect.

The masterplan for the rehabilitation of **Villa Portelli** and its gardens at Kalkara was completed. Based on this masterplan, works are being planned and phased. Parts of the gardens have been opened for the public in December. This involved several restoration and reconstruction works on terracing walls, and perimeter walls, which were in a bad structural state. Further works included the stripping of modern accretions and renders on the internal walls and the restoration of the basement level of the villa, which has been turned into a basic interpretation centre to showcase the history of the property. Following a memorandum of understanding signed with Project Green, the latter took care of the restoration of the garden landscaping in collaboration with HM. Invasive trees and plants were removed, and the remaining areas of the original gardens destroyed when Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi was formed in the 1970s, were cleared from rubbish and construction waste. Soil was added to these areas which will also be landscaped. In the rest of the gardens, Project Green has carried out extensive landscaping works involving the planting of hundreds of new trees and shrubs, based on historical documentation. The gardens have also been made safe and furnished with new outdoor furniture. The completed areas are now freely open to the public every Sunday.

Further restoration works at the **Inquisitor's Palace** are being planned. These include the restoration of the main façade and the side façade, all façade apertures, and the restoration of the main staircase and other halls and rooms within the palace. A planning application was submitted for the restoration and conservation of the main and side façade. The third phase of the Cancelleria, which involved carpentry works and the painting/decorative process has been concluded and installed, including the main sculptural element. Restoration work of the space next to the workshop leading to the historic kitchen continued. This included removing of the surface coating, cleaning and restoration of the masonry work, and repointing as needed. No progress was registered on pending projects, including the Castellania courtyard at ground floor level, and the reconstruction of the 17th-century balcony along Pope Alexander VII Street. The third and final phase of the Cancelleria was concluded and installed in September, and a new electrical lighting system was installed in the garden. Paperwork for the tender regarding the project to reinstate the Inquisitor's Apartment and a lift, which includes the restoration of all the apertures along the façades, the main staircase, and halls in the *piano nobile* and the inquisitors' apartment on the upper floor, has been concluded and should be published in 2025. The agency has also secured the lease of a number of small properties at the back of the Inquisitor's Palace, which, however, are in a dilapidated state. They are being rendered safe until the required work can be undertaken for them to be refurbished as a back-office extension to the palace.

A lot of attention was also given to the **Birgu Armoury**, which hosted a main pavilion for the first edition of the maltabiennale.art 2024. Following an architectural survey, a plan of remedial works was drafted and implemented. This included removing any detached cement parts from roofs along the interior halls, whitewashing and rerouting of electricity with minimal intervention, since it maximised out of the surviving circuit works. Other improvements to render the site safe for visitors were made, including securing of windows, installation of health and safety signage and the levelling of the courtyard flooring.

The €15-million second phase of the **Malta Maritime Museum** project will see the complete rehabilitation of the former Naval Bakery into a world class maritime museum, utilising all the various areas of the building.

The project shall also include a visitable reserve collection, library, offices and visitor ancillary services for a comprehensive experience. The project is being designed with environmental sustainability as a priority utilising passive design solutions, PVs and geo-thermal systems to minimise consumption. Civil works are planned to commence in the second half of 2025. The M&E, finishes, fit-out and interpretative tools packages are complete, and the tenders shall be issued in due course.



Rehabilitation works of the former Naval Bakery

Apart from the standard roster of necessary maintenance works, other works at **Fort St Angelo** comprised the repainting and whitewashing of various areas, including the Egmont Hall, and the installation of a security railing in the crypt, which made possible the opening of said space to the public for the first time on 8 September.



The newly painted Egmont Hall

Several outdoor information waypoints and panels were also replaced, while a new intelligent lighting system is being installed. On another note, in May, Infrastructure Malta opened the new bridge spanning the moat of Fort St Angelo. This facilitated the access to and from the fort. Discussions are in process for the eventual storage and display of the old 1906 bridge below Fort St Angelo.

Valletta Region

The €40-million **Grand Master's Palace** Rehabilitation Project was inaugurated on 12 January. This included the €18-million investment through the European Regional Development Fund. The project was awarded the public vote choice in the Malta Architecture and Spatial Planning awards for 2023, and an honourable mention in the Restoration Category. The restored spaces were very well received by the general public, and the project was also shortlisted in this year's edition of the Premju Emanuele Luigi Galizia.

The Prince Alfred Courtyard, which up to September 2023 had served as the main building materials storage and general works yard, was cleared and the flagstone floor restored and in parts re-instated, ready for the official opening, for which it hosted the reception together with the Orangery. Works proceeded with the restoration of the completion of the State Rooms (winter apartment) and the overlying offices to be used by the Office of the President, the restoration of the State Rooms in the summer apartment areas, the restoration of the halls within the mint and treasury, the completion of the restoration works in the turret and Pinto clock tower. Works have also commenced on the restoration of the Tapestry Chamber and the Dining Room. The contract for the restoration and reconstruction of the pitched roofs over the Dining, Tapestry and Throne Rooms was also signed and works are expected to commence in 2025.

The project for the restoration of the tapestries also kicked off in 2024, with the tapestries being transported to the De Wit Royal Manufacturers in Mechelen, Belgium, following an on-site meeting at the Tapestry Chamber on 28 March. AHM delegation also visited the DEWit workshop to monitor progress in November. Completion is targeted for mid-2026. A patronage agreement was also signed with Eden Leisure Group for the restoration of the only surviving Grand Master's carriage. This project is in an advanced stage and shall be completed in April 2025.

At **MUŻA**, works focused on the regeneration of the basement level into a temporary exhibition area. The works involve the restoration of the fabric, the reintegration of previous lost spaces, the services and finishes. The project also includes a new visitor access from Zachary Street into MUŻA as well as a lift connecting the ground floor with the basement level. Works are expected to be completed by May 2025.

The project for the restoration and rehabilitation of the **Main Guard** also proceeded. The contract for the restoration of the fabric (internal and external) has been awarded and works on site will mobilise in early 2025. The design development of the re-use of the spaces is also underway.

During the year the works contract to restore and structurally reinforce the **Siege Memorial Bell**, was awarded. The contractor executed a structural reinforcing and restoration intervention based on a specialised 'design and build intervention' that has been determined, designed and co-ordinated by HM. These works should be completed in the first months of 2025.

The Gardjola at the entrance of **Fort St Elmo**, which was in a bad structural condition, had to be dismantled, with several large irregular stone elements requiring re-crafting. These works were completed in December.

Apart from several routine and scheduled maintenance works, electrical and lighting repairs were carried out at Porta del Soccorso, Piazza Cavalier, outside the museum shop and the garages area. Several apertures were maintained at the Parade Ground (reserve collection wing), Piazza Cavalier barracks, St Anne's chapel, Chaplain's House, workshops, reception, security room and Abercrombie Casemates. The main restrooms at the Parade Ground were also refurbished. One of the large historic anchors was removed from St Lazarus bastion, in collaboration with the Birgu Local Council, in order to be treated and displayed in Vittoriosa.



Restoration works at Fort St Elmo

HM has been officially informed that the application for European Regional Development Fund financing for the restoration and rehabilitation of **Villa Guardamangia** has been approved and the funding of €10.2 million granted. The tender for the restoration works of the villa was issued and is being evaluated, with restoration works planned to start around mid-2025. Other tenders for the same project are being drafted. In the meantime, the restoration of the right side of the garden wall has been completed, following the removal of the irregular structures which had been constructed upon it by the neighbours along the years. Preliminary archaeological investigations were continued, with the excavation of two segments of the cement garden pathway which exposed a pre-existing path with water channels on either side.

South Region

The restoration and renaturing of Wied Dalam at the **Għar Dalam** Park continued throughout this year. The works included further clearance of invasive and alien plants and trees from the valley, the transportation and laying of additional soil, the planting of indigenous trees and plants, the restoration of rubble walls, and the creation of walking paths. Stretches of rubble walls around **Ta' Kaċċatura** have been restored. Further works were also undertaken at **Borġ in-Nadur**, including the removal and carting away of modern accretions around the rural rooms and the restoration of damaged rubble walls.

Wooden ticketing huts at both **Haġar Qim** and **Mnajdra** were replaced. The new huts offer shelter and basic facilities for security officers stationed at both sites, while at the same time are more in keeping with the surrounding environment. The installation of these huts also presented the opportunity to integrate toilet facilities within the hut at Mnajdra, eliminating the need for an unsightly mobile toilet. Both huts include a green



Restoration and renaturing of Wied Dalam

roof that has been planted with indigenous shrubs. This project was completed by June. In the meantime, discussions are underway to remove another two security huts that are no longer required. Works on the pathway between Haġar Qim and Mnajdra are still on hold, until the necessary clearances are obtained from the Department of Contracts.



Ticketing huts at Haġar Qim

Works on the replacement of the roof of the Visitor Centre commenced in summer. Roofs of the two main blocks were replaced. Remaining work, which includes the roof of the bridge linking the two blocks, trunking for cables and water drainpipes are planned for next year. A planning application has been submitted for the re-organization and landscaping of the visitor car park.

The works on the perimeter wall surrounding the field at the back of the **Tarxien Prehistoric Complex** have been completed, and the north field turned into a new landscaped area accessed through a ramp connecting the field with the existing walkway. The landscaped area, made possible through a sponsorship by the Alf Mizzi Foundation, was launched on 26 November, and has been furnished with the installation of water tanks for water catchment and an automatic irrigation system. Other works comprised the clearing of the field from large rubble/rubbish, planting of over 900 trees, path demarcation, procurement of benches and bins. Care was taken to only plant trees and shrubs which were present in the Neolithic, and which do not damage underlying archaeological features. The building of a rubble wall and pond is planned for 2025. In *Gnien Dinja Waħda*, measures were taken to better ensure the safety of the area which included the installation of hornet taps and cordoning off hazards. In November, more shrubs were planted.



Landscaping in the field at the back of the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex

The pedestrianization and embellishment of the semi-circular area in front of the site was completed in conjunction with the local council. This project, partly sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority, created a new meeting place for the surrounding residents and visitors to the site. The works included the paving of the area with porfido, the installation of a new lighting system, the installation of new seating with tree planters and other street furniture, the construction of a central planter, and the widening of the pavement in front of the visitor centre to facilitate access to all. All this created an ambience which is more befit to a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It was a very busy year at **Fort Delimara**. The remaining alien farm structures were removed, including from main barracks, Group Store area and upper level. This work has brought the fort back to its historical 1964 configuration when it was ceded to the civil authorities. During such clearing, several original stones were found and were adequately stored in order to block off dangerous areas and also to be readily found if needed in future restoration. Of particular interest were the façade stones of the original barrack block, thought to be long lost. These can now be used for eventual reconstruction of said façades.



Further works at Fort Delimara

The counterscarp galleries were cleared, thus making these areas safe to access for the first time in over fifty years due to the amount of debris accumulated within. No. 5 and No. 6 guns were treated and repainted. With the completion of this project, all of the four original 38-ton guns within Fort Delimara have now been treated.

The cesspit was cleaned and infrastructural setup prepared for the installation of lavatories on site within the original latrines premises, therefore increasing amenities on site. A disturbed farm trench at the main entrance was cleared for the installation of infrastructural services.

A most important work was the restoration of the main gate, which is nearing its end. It was divided in two: wood and metal restoration of the small wicket gate, and the wood and metal restoration of the larger main gate. This brought the original main gate back to full working order, thus not only enhancing the historical aspect of the main entrance but also increasing site security. Complementing this work was the purchase and repair of an old lock to be fitted into the restored gate. The arch of the main gate was also restored while it was dismantled for restoration since otherwise it would have been impossible to reach.

The clearing and cleaning of the ditch was completed by Project Green. This re-exposed the full extent of the ditch, and allowed for the selection of original stone fabric dislodged by time to be safeguarded for future re-installation.



Clearing and cleaning of the ditch at Fort Delimara

Other work included the removal of an animal trough from No. 2 casemate and the installation of lighting within the counterscarp galleries, which allowed the area to be opened to the public for the first time. Electricity points were also installed in casemates and communication tunnels, while CCTV cameras were installed around the site, thus considerably enhancing the security and protection against vandalism and intrusions.

The gun port shutters for No. 3 gun were also reconstructed following extensive research locally and abroad. Besides being a historical reconstruction, this further increased protection against intrusions. Other shutters will follow in due course. The 1940s barrack block was certified to be in unrepairable and dangerous condition. To ensure site safety and eventual reconstruction, it was demolished in a controlled way. Several loose historic fabric around the site was consolidated to halt further deterioration.

Inspection of smoke escape roofs revealed that the iron beams fitted in place since 1913 have been deteriorating and are in risk of collapse. It was therefore decided to close off the access to the casemates' tunnel's sections passing beneath for health and safety reasons until said historic roofs are replaced while strengthening the bedrock between Nos. 5 & 6 casemates which has resulted in wide cracks. Work is still to commence.



Smoke escape roofs at Fort Delimara

North Region

One of the pilasters on the side of the gate leading into **San Pawl Milqi** needed propping up as it was about to collapse due to loss of stone support in its foundation. Stones were thus inserted in January to give back stability to the pilaster and avoid its potential collapse. Following completion of a trial pit back in January, on-site meetings were also held with Enemalta personnel in connection with the installation of new electricity poles to reroute wiring and streetlamp away from the chapel and a formal request was sent to Enemalta back in 2022. The new poles were eventually installed by Enemalta in April, while the shifting of the streetlamp and the removal of the external wiring from the chapel's external walls were completed by October. The planning permit for improved visitor access and interpretation was issued by the Planning Authority this year. Works, however, are not planned to start next year.

An air conditioner was installed in the curatorial office of the **National Museum of Natural History**, and two others were installed in the wet collections area to maintain a stable temperature since specimens are preserved in alcohol and formalin, two highly volatile liquids. Following several complaints and a police report, the wall adjacent to the Mdina police station was consolidated and any danger of falling masonry removed. A new boundary wall for the **Roman Baths** has been designed and a planning application should be submitted early next year. At **Bidnija Olive Grove** works have started on the restoration and reconstruction of the rubble walls after a contract was awarded following a call for tender issued by Ambjent Malta.

At the **Domvs Romana** new internal glass doors and new air conditioners have been installed. A design for a protective fencing, to be installed along Triq l-Istazzjon has been prepared and a planning application will be submitted next year. The scope behind this fencing is to protect pedestrians from the risk of falling rock or debris from the excavated rock side of the road on the Domvs side. To better organise staff office space and, at the same time, create a new small display area with special finds from the Domvs Romana's current excavations, the soffit in the staff room was removed in February to allow the removal of electrical and other services passing above it. Later in the year, the reversible partitions and the (old) electrical wiring were removed. Work on this project is ongoing.

Gozo Region

In January, a site survey was carried out to quantify the number of new CCTV cameras required for the **Ġgantija Archaeological Park**, and the location for their installation. A supply and installation tender was issued in summer, covering a number of HM sites. Preparatory works which were not included in the tender were carried out in-house. These consisted of installation of new masts and bases for the CCTV cameras, together with other minor civil works. Actual installation commenced in late November and continued in December. The project included the installation of 56 new cameras, providing coverage for all internal and external areas of the site, and enabling coverage of the internal spaces of the megalithic monument for the first time.

A new fibre optic cable was also installed in January. Upkeep works included repainting of the visitor pathway's red metal railing and totem signs, and the installation of new signage. The brick boundary wall on the western side of the Ġgantija forecourt was repaired in some areas and repainted in a shade that blends with the surroundings. The internal areas of the megalithic monument were manually cleaned from organic growth and accumulated dust by curatorial staff



Cleaning of Ġgantija walls



Restoration works at Gozo Area Office



on a regular basis, assisted by MCAST apprentices. Following the procurement of padouk slats in 2023, works for the repair of the inner section of the walkway in Ġgantija South took place in mid-April. These works were carried out in-house and consisted of the removal of the old slats, repairs to the fibreglass structural frame, and installation of new slats.

Cracks on a stone-clad concrete pilaster in the Geology Hall of the **Gozo Nature Museum** were plastered with an epoxy-based material as a short-term measure, and when the museum closes to visitors upon completion of the new Gozo Museum, the stone-cladding will be removed and the pilaster inspected further. The water reservoir, outdoor AC units and service trunking on the roof of the museum were painted in stone colour to minimise their visual impact. These works were carried out in October. Pointing works on part of the walls of the **Gozo Area Office** in the Citadel took place in November. This space currently houses part of the reserve collection, the Gozo Reference Library and a multi-purpose research/ digitisation space.

At the **Old Prison**, upkeep works included the restoration and repainting of the main door in January. At the **Gran Castello Historic House**, the back garden soil was topped up with about 1,400 litres of good quality soil in April. To facilitate watering of the garden, rainwater stored in one of the site's cisterns was pumped into another cistern in the garden. This exercise helps lower consumption of water and puts to good use harvested rainwater. Several local plants were planted in recently acquired antique stone troughs to embellish the terraces, as well as in the garden. Health-and-safety initiatives were followed up at both the Gran Castello Historic House and the Gozo Nature Museum. These included the fixture of non-slip tape on slippery steps, as well as the manufacture of wooden handrails in some staircases to prevent accidents.



Gran Castello Historic House's back garden

At the **Gozo Museum of Archaeology** new shelving was installed behind a display partition, to increase storage for the museum shop. A non-MITA internet connection was provided by Melita service providers in the Citadel sites, to have a back-up system in place, in case the primary provision develops a fault.

The project of the **Gozo Museum** which is being managed by the Ministry for Gozo and Planning, and which will be handed over to HM upon completion, entered the finishing stage. The Senior Curator for Gozo sites together with a HM architect attended weekly progress meetings on-site, taking part in discussions and decisions regarding the finishes, as required.

EU co-funded projects

The €18million ERDF funded project, part of the comprehensive €40-million investment in the **Grand Master's Palace Rehabilitation Project** was inaugurated on 12 January. The visitor centre and visitor facilities and the restoration/rehabilitation of the Armoury, Piano Nobile Corridors and *Uccelliera*, which were at the core of this project, are now fully operational and presenting a more engaging experience. The closure report was also submitted, and the project is considered complete, pending minor snags.

At the Gozo Nature Museum, the old birds display was dismantled and most specimen were transferred permanently to the National Museum of Natural History in Mdina. The old 'habitats' display was also dismantled. Pointing works were carried out in both rooms on the upper floor of the museum, while the wooden roof beams were treated accordingly. Two large monitors that were funded through the **CORALLO +SI Project** 'Capitalization project for Smaller Islands, Natural Parks and Marine Protected Areas' (Interreg Italia-Malta) were installed in these rooms respectively. The larger room is dedicated to all of Gozo's terrestrial Natura 2000 sites, with an audio-visual shown on the 65" monitor. The display focuses on important seabirds that nest and breed in the cliffs of Gozo. A tactile model of Dwejra and a model of the Maltese Fungus are on display. The 50" monitor in the smaller room shows an audio-visual dedicated to the Natura 2000 site of the Cittadella. New signage was installed on the upper floor of the museum.

As a follow-up of the CORALLO +SI Project, educational activity books on Gozo's N2K sites, as well as accompanying merchandise (pencil cases and tote bags) were distributed to all Gozitan students between Year 4 and Year 6, attending both state and church schools. Some Form 1 students were also provided with the activity books upon request by their teachers. The content of the activity book was developed into interactive content for a 43" touchscreen table funded through the same project. In October, the Managing Authority of the CORALLO +SI project requested all partners to compile a brief report and to provide evidence of the deliverables of the project.

Activities related to the Interreg V-A Italia Malta CORALLO Project – Correct Enjoyment (and Awareness Raising) of Natura 2000 Locations – were concluded. The mobile exhibition about Natura 2000 sites was hosted at the Haġar Qim Ochre Hall throughout January. A delegation from the National Audit Office was also hosted in summer as part of the project audit.

Green Initiatives

HM has undertaken several environmental initiatives. Besides the upgrading of electrical and plumbing installations and the replacement of old AC units with more energy-efficient systems, staff is being motivated to operate with environmental sustainability in mind. Further improvements were made to waste management, with new waste separation bins introduced in several sites.

HM's commitment to increasing greenery on our sites through the planting of shrubs and trees lead to the setup of a new landscaped area at Tarxien Prehistoric site, where with the support of the Alf. Mizzi Foundation, more than eight hundred indigenous trees and shrubs were planted. Several trees and shrubs were also planted at Ghar Dalam Park to improve the natural habitat and prevent soil erosion. Most of these were grown from seedlings in HM's own nursery at Ghar Dalam. Different teams from other commercial entities and agencies have joined in through their corporate social responsibility programmes, to assist us in this planting initiative. More trees and shrubs were planted in other HM sites as shown below:

Plants, shrubs and trees planted in 2024	
Heritage Malta Site	Numbers
Ghar Dalam Park	462
Tarxien Prehistoric Site	900+
Mnajdra	74
Haġar Qim	45
St Paul's Catacombs	15
TOTAL	1,496

The restoration of rubble walls in traditional rubble construction helps the renaturing of the areas in which they are, since they provide important habitats to local fauna. The following table shows the extent of rubble walls which have been restored in 2024.

Restored rubble walls		
Location	Length (m)	Assisted by
Bidnija Olive Grove	120	Ambjent Malta contractor
Borġ in-Nadur	20	Contracted by HM
Ta' Kaċċatura	250	HM Mastri
TOTAL	390	

CONSERVATION

ORGANICS DEPARTMENT

Paintings, polychrome sculpture and wood

The interventions in what was known as the Bar Room of the Main Guard are now complete. The walls of the latter were completely whitewashed in the past, concealing a considerable number of paintings beneath. Unfortunately, some of these paintings were found partially or almost destroyed due to the installation of air conditioning units and electricity trunking. Interventions are still ongoing on the walls of two other rooms adjacent to the Main Hall. Numerous interesting images are being unveiled.

Interventions on most of the south wall of the Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology are complete. The remaining section will be tackled early next year and is envisaged to take some time to complete. This is because the area suffered extensive water infiltration in the past, causing the formation of heavy salts within the stone substrate, which in turn caused severe powdering and lifting of the paint layer. Works also commenced on the frieze over the decorative, wooden balcony. To speed up the project, more conservators from Bighi were assigned to work at the Salon on a rotational basis.

Monitoring of the conservation/restoration interventions carried out by various contractors the Grand Master's Palace was constant throughout the year to ensure proper conservation/ restoration ethics. Environmental issues at MUZA were also constantly monitored through monthly condition assessments and surface cleaning of all artefacts on display.

Throughout the year, HM conservators have supervised and lectured University of Malta students reading for their Master's course in conservation of easel paintings. Supervision of practical sessions were also conducted for MCAST students pursuing a Bachelor's degree in conservation, ensuring a hands-on, skills-based approach to learning. The senior conservator also represented HM on the Warrants Board.

A new recruit has joined HM's Preventive Conservation Unit. The preventive conservator is responsible for monitoring environmental conditions across HM's sites and museums, ensuring that monuments and collections are preserved within environments conducive to their long-term preservation. Additionally, the preventive conservator collaborates with other HM conservators, specialising in the treatment of organic and inorganic materials, to routinely assess the condition of Malta's national heritage. This ensures prompt remedial action when necessary.

HM has actively collaborated with international conservation institutions to identify alternative environmental monitoring systems tailored for historic sites and museums. This initiative has included numerous virtual meetings with preventive conservators, data analysts, and scientists from institutions across the EU and the UK. Additionally, HM has sought guidance from organisations such as the Canadian Conservation Institute. These efforts aim to establish a unified system for collating environmental data from multiple sites, integrating the data meaningfully into HM's digital collection management system.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the **National Galleries of Scotland**

(NGS), visits and inspections of the conservation departments, museums, and storage facilities managed by NGS were conducted. A conservator from HM was granted permission by the NGS' Head of Conservation to visit the conservation laboratories and storage facilities of the National Library in Edinburgh and Glasgow, further enhancing technical expertise. These visits enabled NGS conservators to share technical advice and insights with HM conservators. The experience provided valuable knowledge to the Preventive Conservation Unit, particularly in the areas of museum microenvironment monitoring, data management, and analysis systems. Moreover, HM also signed a letter of intent with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, which sought the expert advice of our conservation lab to participate in a potential conservation project.

The conservation departments were also represented in a visit to conservation facilities in France, accompanied by HM architects, an IT administrator, and a scientist, who inspected several museums, conservation labs, and storage facilities, including the underground research facilities at the Louvre in Paris and the national collection storage at the Louvre Lens. These visits were part of a holistic approach to inform the redesigning of HM's laboratories and storage facilities planned for the near future.

HM's conservation departments were also actively promoted during a week-long ministerial conference in Vienna, organized by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Together with the Diagnostic Science Laboratories and the Manager for International Relations, HM showcased the use of near-nuclear techniques for the analysis and preservation of Malta's national heritage. During the conference, the HM team engaged with scientists, delegates, and foreign ministers to explore new collaborative opportunities with international institutions.

HM conservators further edited their paper on the conservation and restoration treatment of a painting by Maltese artist Frank Portelli on chipboard support. Their contribution, initially presented at a conference in Greenwich, was published by Archetype Publications in the volume *Hand in Hand: Collaboration in Art and Conservation*, and marks HM's pioneering contribution in presenting a conservation methodology for paintings on chipboard supports.

During the year under review, the following conservation projects were concluded by the various laboratories:

- Christ washing the apostles' feet, early 17th century, framed canvas painting, HM16/23/24, 52478, Grand Master's Palace
- Beheading of St John the Baptist (after Caravaggio), framed canvas painting, HM16/69/24, 64583, Grand Master's Palace
- Nativity of Our Lady, 18th-century copy, framed canvas painting, HM16/03/24, 51092, Grand Master's Palace
- Portrait of Bishop Francesco Saverio Caruana, 19th century, framed canvas painting, HM16/56/24, 52356, Grand Master's Palace
- Portrait of Emperor Charles V (copy), unframed canvas painting, HM16/58/24, 207289, Grand Master's Palace
- Antependium, decorative wooden frame (18th-century), HM/16/24/24, 89621, Grand Master's Palace

- Decorative frame of an engraving of the Crucifix, (18th century), HMI6/31/24, 53487, Grand Master's Palace
- Pinto decorative table with marble top, HMI6/05/24, 89460, Grand Master's Palace
- St Philip, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/80/23, 81096, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Matthew, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/80/23, 81042, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Thomas, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/78/23, 81099, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Thomas, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/77/23, 81100, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Andrew, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/79/23, 81086, Inquisitor's Palace
- St Jude, Stefano Erardi, framed canvas painting, HMI6/07/24, 89560, Inquisitor's Palace
- Decorative frame of Inquisitor Stoppani, HMI6/173/24, 38i, Inquisitor's Palace
- Immaculate Conception, 18th-century headboard panel, HMI6/96/24, 76309, Inquisitor's Palace
- Decorative frame of a cardinal, HMI6/172/24, 38ii, Inquisitor's Palace
- Lot two of ninety, wooden panels for the chancery, including also the central reredos, HM/48/20, Inquisitor's Palace
- Self-portrait by Francesco Zahra, 18th century, framed canvas painting, HMI6/475/12, 81426, MUŻA
- The Risen Christ (tabernacle door), 18th century, wood, HMI6/41/24, 51684, MUŻA
- Christ holding the Cross (tabernacle door), 18th century, wood, HMI6/42/24, 51684, MUŻA
- The City, Luciano Micallef, framed panel painting, HMI6/40/24, 51340, MUŻA
- Nettuno, Mermaids and Marine Horses (central piece), Frank Portelli, chipboard panel, HMI6/42/22, 67046, MUŻA
- Coat of arms of Great Britain, 19th century, polychrome gesso and wood relief, HMI6/11/24, 62577, Gozo collection
- Chest of drawers (*sagristija*), HMI6/01/24, 79872, Gran Castello, Gozo
- Decorative frame of the painting Ghosts of History, Ben Maile, wood, HMI6/34/24, 86282, MUŻA
- Decorative frame of RAF A/S Rescue, HMI6/124/24, 233458, National War Museum.
- **Other work**
- Portrait of Dom Mauro Caruana, Emmanuel Borg Gauci, framed canvas painting, HMI6/12/24 – HMI6/37/24, National Library of Malta.
- Portrait of Justin Alvarez, E. Caruana Dingli, framed painting on canvas, HMI6/12/24 – HMI6/37/24, National Library of Malta.
- Nude woman, Frank Portelli, oil on plywood (unframed), HMI6/12/24 – HMI6/37/24, Malta School of Arts.
- Study of a robed figure holding a book, oil on cardboard (unframed), HMI6/12/24 – HMI6/37/24, Malta School of Arts.

Textiles

Fort St Angelo

- Number and uniform shirt, HMI6.6.2024, 61997, FSA/374.
- AB Cook winter uniform (5 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 62615, FSA/406.
- AB Cook summer uniform (4 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 62616, FSA/407.
- AB Cook kitchen clothes (4 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 62617, FSA/408.

- AB Cook number and uniform (3 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 62623, FSA/409.
- Set of GNTS (WRENS cadets) by John Chetcuti, HMI6.6.2024, 63313, FSA/419.
- Joseph Saliba's British Legion uniform (5 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 54917, FSA/435.
- AB Michael Caruana's winter raincoat and uniform, HMI6.6.2024, 54940, FSA/437.
- Tin box, hat and epaulettes, HMI6.6.2024, 82844, FSA/445.
- Uniform Spiridione Cassar (7 pieces), HMI6.6.2024, 89367, FSA/451.

Grand Master's Palace

- Dismantling, cleaning and packing of the ten large and six small tapestries.
- Set of six small tapestries, HMI6.37.2015, 60168i-iv, 22901-02.
- The king borne tapestry, HMI6.38.2015, 60169, 22903-04.
- The animal's fight tapestry, HMI6.39.2015 - TXT001.07, 60170, 22905-06.
- Horse Isabella tapestry, HMI6.40.2015, 60171, 22919-20.
- The ostriches tapestry, HMI6.41.2015, 60172, 22921-22.
- The two bulls tapestry, HMI6.174.2024, 60173, 22907-08.
- The Indian hunter tapestry, HMI6.175.2024, 60174, 22909 - 22910.
- The striped horse tapestry, HMI6.176.2024 - COO8/05, 60175, 22911-12.
- Indian on horseback tapestry, HMI6.177.2024, 60176, 22913-14.
- The fishermen, HMI6.178.2024, 60177, 22915-16.
- The elephant, HMI6.179.2024, 60178, 22917-18.

Inquisitor's Palace

- Military jacket, HMI6.54.2023, 50914, ETHN/F/171.
- Military trousers, HMI6.54.2023, 50907, ETHN/F/285.
- Regency velvet men's waistcoat with gold brocade lining, HMI6.27.2024, 71630, ETHN/F/200.
- 18th-century red silk bodice with gold trimmings, HMI6.27.2024, 70420, ETHN/F/272.
- 18th-century female red velvet bodice, HMI6.27.2024, 71356, ETHN/F/159.
- 20th-century white leather gloves, HMI6.27.2024, 50394, ETHN/F/891i.
- 20th-century lady's green hat with pheasant feathers, HMI6.27.2024, 72305, ETHN/F/1959.
- 1950s lady's pink hat with feathers, HMI6.27.2024, 72302, ETHN/F/1956.
- Pair of red ankle boots, HMI6.27.2024, 50425, ETHN/F/8.
- 1920s pair of blue heeled shoes with ankle straps, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1122.
- 1920s pair of purple heeled shoes with ankle straps, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1120.
- 1920s pair of golden heeled shoes with ankle straps, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1123.
- 19th-century pair of lady's black shoes with buckle, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1119.
- Late 19th-century lady's pair of brown leather shoes, HMI6.533.2013, 70376, ETHN/F/948.
- Early 20th-century Turkish mules, HMI6.27.2024, 50445, ETHN/F/25, Inquisitor's Palace.
- 18th-century lady's pair of silk brocade shoes, HMI6.27.2024, 71633iii, ETHN/F/1414iii.
- 18th-century red silk shoes, HMI6.27.2024, 50426, ETHN/F/9.
- 18th-century floral silk brocade shoes, HMI6.27.2024, 50427, ETHN/F/11.
- 18th-century red silk bodice with gold trimmings, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1170i.
- 18th-century red silk skirt, HMI6.27.2024, ETHN/F/1170ii.
- Purple velvet male jacket, HMI6.27.2024, 50904, ETHN/F/230.
- Purple velvet male breeches, HMI6.27.2024, 50906, ETHN/F/108.
- Privately owned stomachers (3 pieces) - Preparation for display, HMI6.27.2024.

- Privately owned pairs of shoes (3 pairs) - Preparation for display, HM16.27.2024.
- 1920s olive green shoes with ankle straps, HM16.27.2024, ETHN/F/1091.
- 19th-century silk brocaded bodice, HM16.27.2024, ETHN/F/1176i.
- 19th-century silk brocaded skirt, HM16.27.2024, ETHN/F/1176ii.
- 19th-century silk brocaded bag, HM16.27.2024, ETHN/F/1176iii.
- 19th-century silk brocaded purse, HM16.27.2024, ETHN/F/1176iv.
- 18th-century gold-embroidered stomacher, HM16.18.2018, 71924, ETHN/F/1192.
- 18th-century gold-embroidered stomacher, HM16.18.2018, 71368, ETHN/F/250.
- 18th-century gold embroidered stomacher, HM16.18.2018, 71399, ETHN/F/541.
- Black silk left-handed *ghonnella*, HM16.68.2024, 75016, ETHN/F/2580.
- Black cotton left-handed *ghonnella*, HM16.69.2024, 75017, ETHN/F/2581.
- Fabric for *ghonnella*, HM16.70.2024, 75259i-ii, ETHN/F/2593i-ii.
- Feather hat, HM16.27.2023, 71778iii, ETHN/F/1564iii.
- C+R Commonwealth dress jacket, HM16.156.2024, 76279i, ETHN/F/2680i.
- C+R Commonwealth dress jacket, HM16.156.2024, 76279ii, ETHN/F/2680ii.
- C+R Studded leather belt, HM16.156.2024, 76280, ETHN/L/31.
- Burgundy Velvet envelope bag, HM16.72.2024, 50103, ETHN/F/945.
- Maltese flag from official car, HM16.349.2013, 62573, ETHN/MV/li.
- Purple damask chasuble, HM16.20.2023, 70384, ETHN/F/384.
- Purple dalmatic, HM16.20.2023, 70626, ETHN/F/503.
- Applique coat of arms, HM16.20.2023, 71398, ETHN/F/514.
- Red damask dalmatic, HM16.20.2023, 71469, ETHN/F/1416.
- Green damask altar frontal, HM16.20.2023, 71471, ETHN/F/1418.
- Green velvet dalmatic with two tassels, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.
- Green velvet chasuble, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.
- Green velvet dalmatic, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.
- Green velvet cope, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.
- Green stole, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, conserved for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.
- Three green maniples, HM16.64.2024, privately owned, for 'Threads of Faith' exhibition.

Malta Maritime Museum

- Royal Navy Commodore summer uniform, HM16.54.2023, 55069, MMM 004632/ MMU 004.
- Royal Navy Rear-Admiral dress uniform jacket, HM16.54.2023, 55077, MMU 012.
- Tin commodity box, HM16.54.2023, 81746, MMM 002571/ MMU 311.
- Bicorn hat, HM16.54.2023, 81746, MMM 002571/ MMU 311.
- Epaulette, HM16.54.2023, 81746, MMM 002571/ MMU 311.
- Ceremonial belt, HM16.54.2023, 81746, MMM002571/MMU311.
- Jolly Roger flag, HM16.54.2023, 83210, MMM 000645.
- Female swimsuit, HM16.54.2023, 55075, MMM003158/MMU010.
- Cap, HM16.54.2023, 55069, MMM004632/MMU004.
- Sail from catamaran model, HM16.54.2023, 82692, MMM000118.

MUŻA

- Installation – five instruments and elements covered in textile, HM16.3.2024.

National War Museum

- Uniform shirt, HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Uniform tie, HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Uniform brasses, HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Uniform trousers, HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Uniform blazer, HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Uniform shoes (pair), HM16.157.2024, 233459, NWM 515.
- Brigadier Alfred Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88369, NWM 4151.
- Matar Willy R. Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88163, NWM 4056.
- Gerald Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88164, NWM 4057.
- General Federici Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88165, NWM 4058.
- Brigadier Alfred Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88166, NWM 4059.
- Henry Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88167, NWM 4060.
- Freddy Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88168, NWM 4061.
- James Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88169, NWM 4062.
- Joseph Gatt's medals, HM16.92.2023, 88171, NWM 4063.
- 100th Concert Poplars medal, HM16.92.2023, 88172, NWM 4143.

Books and paper

Collections Management Unit

- 20th-century French Belgian prints of flowers, HM16.64.2022, 82457, FAS/PR/1026
- Whiskey print, HM16.64.2022, 207182
- Veduta di Gran Porto di Malta, HM16.63.2022, 53120, FAS/E/186.

Grand Master's Palace

- Crucifix etching, HM16.31.2024, 53487, FAS/PR/379.
- Coat of arms I, HM16.32.2024, 207139, GMP-PI08.
- Coat of arms II, HM16.32.2024, 207140, GMP-PI09.

Gozo Museum

- View of Gozo by Giuseppe Calleja, HM16.20.2024, 89650, FAS/P/2316.
- Torre dei Giganti, HM16.18.2024, 52213, FAS/P/1975.
- Lantern cargo boat, HM16.19.2024, 52525, FAS/D/54.
- View of the Gran Castello, drawing, HM16.153.2024, 85550, G/PPD/2022/13.
- View of the Gran Castello, watercolour, HM16.152.2024, 51674.
- Ggantija engraving, HM16.164.2024, 215956, G/PPD/2021/01.

Inquisitor's Palace

- Donna dell'Isola di Malta, HM16.54.2024, 74494, ETHN/PAP/692
- Hermaphrodite print, HM16.1.2024, 75952, ETHN/PAP/1217
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.450.2013, 64007, FAS/P/1937.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.449.2013, 64006,

FAS/P/1930.

- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.442.2013, 63999, FAS/P/1929.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.441.2013, 63998, FAS/P/1928.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.440.2013, 63997, FAS/P/1927.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.439.2013, 63996, FAS/P/1926.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.438.2013, 63995, FAS/P/1925.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.437.2013, 63994, FAS/P/1924.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.436.2013, 63993, FAS/P/1923.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.447.2013, 64004, FAS/P/1935.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.446.2013, 64003, FAS/P/1934.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.454.2013, 64011, FAS/P/1941.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.445.2013, 64002, FAS/P/1933.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.444.2013, 64001, FAS/P/1932.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.443.2013, 64000, FAS/P/1931.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.452.2013, 64009, FAS/P/1939.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.448.2013, 64005, FAS/P/1936.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.451.2013, 64008, FAS/P/1938.
- Conspiracy and execution of the slaves, gouache painting, HM16.453.2013, 64010, FAS/P/1940.

Malta Maritime Museum

- Portrait of William Scamp, HM16.21.2013, 80768.
- General Bonaparte calling cards and visiting cards, HM16.III.2024, 209027, MMM 005439.
- Marseillaise lyrics in Maltese, HM16.III.2024, 209028, MMM 005440.
- National Tourism of Malta poster, HM16.I80.2024, 87834, MMM 005215.

MUŻA

- Map of the Island of Malta, HM16. 315. 2012, 80124.
- The Harbour of Marsa Scirocco in Malta, HM16.II9.2024, 80248.
- A plan of the City of Malta, HM16.505.2013, 80539.
- The Harbour of St Paul in Malta, HM16.I20.2024, 80247.
- Exact plan of city, port, suburbs and dependencies - Map of ISLANDS, Malta and Gozo survey Grand Officers of the Order, HM16.I94.2012, 80049.
- British possessions in the Mediterranean, HM16.414.2012, 80326.

- Map of the Maltese Islands, HMI6.201.2012, 80056.
- Chambray in Gozo, HMI6.483.2012, 80269.
- Map of Malta, HMI6.406.2012, 80208.
- Map of Malta, HMI6.54.2011, 50054.
- Map of Gibraltar, Malta and Heligoland, HMI6.122.2024, 80175.
- Map of Malta, HMI6.123.2024, 80093.
- St Paul's Bay in the Island of Malta, HMI6.669.2012, 80268.
- Islands of Importance not delineated at large in the other Maps of the Atlas, HMI6.483.2012, 80168.
- Basin of the Mediterranean, HMI6.435.2012, 80165.
- Map and plan of Malta and of all the Cities, Forts and New Fortifications thereof, HMI6.191.2012, 80046.
- Plan of Valletta Harbour, showing proposed route for launches & tugs, HMI6.511.2013, 80545.
- Map of the Ionian Islands and Malta, HMI6.121.2024, 80173.
- Draughts of some of the chief African Islands in the Mediterranean, as also in the Atlantic and Ethiopic Oceans - An accurate Map of the Islands of Malta, Gozo and Cuming, HMI6.490.2012, 80177.
- Basin of the Mediterranean, HMI6.436.2012, 80166.
- Maps of Malta and its Dependencies: The Malta Railway, HMI6.117.2024, 50800.
- Map of Malta, HMI6.681.2012, 80296.
- Comino Channels, HMI6.310.2012, 80119.
- Fairburn's new chart exhibiting the route of General Buonaparte in the Mediterranean Sea, HMI6.204.2012, 80059.
- Plan of the harbours and fortifications of Valletta in the Island of Malta, HMI6.118.2024, 80264.
- A topographical Map describing the Sovereign Principality of the Islands of Malta and Gozo, HMI6.116.2024, 80153.
- Map of Malta & Gozo Islands, HMI6.313.2012, 80122.
- A Maltese farm, watercolour, HMI6.134.2024, 51508, FAS/P/659.
- The Piazza, linocut, HMI6.135.2024, 53475, FAS/PR/362.
- Senglea, Malta, colour linocut, HMI6.136.2024, 53471, FAS/PR/358.
- Citta Vecchia, Malta, colour linocut, HMI6.137.2024, 53472, FAS/PR/359.
- Maltese market, colour linocut, HMI6.138.2024, 53473, FAS/PR/360.
- Maltese carrozza, colour linocut, HMI6.139.2024, 53474, FAS/PR/361.
- Maltese women, linocut, HMI6.140.2024, 60749, FAS/E/196.
- Set of 6 linocut postcards: A typical Maltese farmstead (i), Isola Point, Senglea (ii), A Stonebreaker (iii), View of Casal Musta (iv), Porta Reale (v), and Citta Vecchia (vi), HMI6.141.2024, 53476, FAS/PR/363.
- Set of seven linocut postcards: Weaving (i), Making the new road (ii), Winding bobbins (iii), Sda Cristoforo, Valletta (iv), Maltese boats (v), Maltese market (vi), and Embarking on a boat (vii), HMI6.142.2024, 53477, FAS/PR/364.
- Series 1 of bound linocuts: Maltese women (i), A stonebreaker (ii), Going to Worship (iii), The Game (iv), The Piazza (v), HMI6.143.2024, 53478, FAS/PR/365.
- Series 2 of bound linocuts: Good Friday (i), Under awnings (ii), Maltese Dghajsa (iii), Maltese Architecture (iv), Maltese church (v), HMI6.144.2024, 53479, FAS/PR/366.
- Aerial view, framed, HMI6.46.2024, 52664, FAS/D/221.

- Exterior view, framed, HMI6.47.2024, 52667, FAS/D/224.
- Night-time view of exterior and cross-section, framed, HMI6.48.2024, 52662, FAS/D/219.
- Exterior view, HMI6.87.2023, 88092, FAS/D/530.
- Exterior view, HMI6.49.2024, 88092, FAS/D/530.
- Exterior view includes 4 fragments, HMI6.87.2023, 88091, FAS/D/529.
- Exterior view, HMI6.87.2023, 88091, FAS/D/529.
- Exterior view, HMI6.87.2023, 88091, FAS/D/529.
- Interior view, HMI6.51.2024, 52668, FAS/D/225.
- Interior view, HMI6.142.2015, 60349, FAS/D/508.
- Interior view, HMI6.49.2024, 52670, FAS/D/227.
- Interior view, HMI6.50.2024, 52669, FAS/D/226.
- Plan, HMI6.142.2015, 60381, 28539-40, FAS/D/509.
- Plan, HMI6.142.2015, 60412, FAS/D/525.
- Interior, HMI6.142.2015, 60402, FAS/D/524.
- Favray drawing, HMI6.92.2021, 52650, FAS/D/201.
- Oil on paper - Caruana Dingli, *Ġlieda fil-Mandraġġ*, HMI6.38.2024, 207173.

National War Museum

- *Talba tal-Paci tal-Gwerra*, HMI6.9.2018, 61213.

Ta Kola Windmill

- Framed print of St Joseph, HMI6.63.2023, 79029, G/ETHN/P/25.

Other work

- Sedan chair, HMI6.88.2021.

INORGANICS DEPARTMENT

Metal, ceramic, glass, stone and underwater archaeology

The six conservation professionals making up the team of the Inorganics Department continued with the process of conservation of objects (archaeological and historic), national monuments, and heritage sites (land and underwater). Conservation work was undertaken both in the specifically set up labs in Bighi and increasingly in situ as required. This year, the team was complimented with another conservation professional, on a contract for service basis, specialised in conservation of modern materials, including plastics. This has filled a lacuna which concerns artefacts mainly found in the contemporary art, ethnography, and military collections. Another important achievement was the intensive training in the manufacturing technique and conservation-restoration of marble inlay that is being provided through a collaboration with the conservation section of St John's Co-Cathedral.

During this year team members were provided with further Continuous Professional Development (CPD) training in conservation to strengthen their knowledge, skills, and ethical considerations. In April, specific training was provided to three conservators of the inorganics department and two textile

conservators on the conservation of plastics. This training course, which included both theory and practice, was delivered by Dr Yvonne Shashua through International Academic Projects, UK. The content was intended to provide a historical background on the use of plastics and the material science comprising knowledge about the substances used for the conservation of plastics.

Conservators also strengthened their ties with other HM employees through a seminar related to teamwork and multidisciplinary tasks. This seminar was followed by a practical session in which the conservators participated in various projects that were not directly related to active conservation treatments. Other CPD included sessions related to integrated pest management and identification of pests, and two seminars related to archaeological considerations for the conservation of prehistoric sites and artefacts. The latter seminars highlighted the intrinsic values of local prehistoric archaeological sites and artefacts and the evaluation of the impact that interventions may have on these values.

The Inorganics Department was involved in various projects that entailed the conservation-restoration of a substantial number of artefacts. These projects included decorated armour from the Palace Armoury, material that was recovered from various underwater archaeological sites, the stone statues recovered in pieces from Villa Guardamangia, the assessment of the collection of snuff boxes and pocket watches located at MUŻA, and the tools used to quarry stone that are part of the Gozo Museum collection. Besides, this year saw a significant increase in interventions carried out directly in situ, especially regarding megalithic structures and other archaeological sites as follows:

- Abbatija tad-Dejr: walls were treated for biological infestation and the graffiti that were sprayed with fluorescent paint were concealed using natural pigments.
- Ggantija: reconstruction of a collapsed section of the infill.
- Ta' Hagrat & Skorba: following the 2020 assessment, the sites were re-assessed in order to prioritise the conservation needs of the individual megaliths.
- Xrobb l-Għaġin: following the excavation of a new area, the condition of each stone member was assessed before the site was reburied. In the 2024 excavation, one of the slabs was pre-consolidated before it was removed from its location.
- Tarxien: the conservation of the easternmost building took off during this year and will continue in 2025.

Other in situ conservation interventions were carried out on public **national monuments**, including those of Guido DeMarco, Manwel Dimech, Pawlu Boffa, Dom Mintoff, Dun Mikiel Xerri, Oliver Friggieri, and others.

Conservation of the stone bowl from Xagħra Stone Circle. Following last year's success story of the Tarxien bowl, the Inorganics Department, the Curatorial Department and the Digitisation Department embarked on another conservation project that requires the application of 3-D laser scanner to document the fragments and assist in finding the location of these fragments. Then, after the fragments have been put together, the bowl is scanned as a whole. The fragments are larger and thicker than those handled in the Tarxien bowl. Therefore, in this case, the weight of these fragments poses a bigger challenge to handle even with the necessary equipment.

Conservators also assisted the curator of the National War Museum to clean and take preventive conservation measures necessary to safeguard the objects stored in the reserve collection.

The list of conservation projects executed during the year were the following:

- HM16/135/2014, Ballerina by E. Pirotta (MUŻA)
- HM16/35/2019, repair of port-hole doorway in south building at Tarxien Prehistoric Complex
- HM16/35/2019, part of the easternmost building at Tarxien Prehistoric Complex
- HM16/36/2019, reinstatement of the collapsed infill at Ġgantija archaeological site
- HM16/36/2019, ongoing conservation of Ġgantija archaeological site
- HM16/37/2019, apse no. 3 at Haġar Qim
- HM16/99/2021, Mother and Child sculpture by G. Bonnici (MUŻA)
- HM16/91/2021, condition assessment of contemporary art artefacts (MUŻA)
- HM16/102/2021, Catacomb 3 blocking stone at St Paul's Catacombs
- HM16/102/2021, coin from Catacomb 3 (St Paul's Catacombs)
- HM16/102/2021, removal of roots from Catacombs 14 & 16 (St Paul's Catacombs)
- HM16/69/2022, in-situ consolidation of plaster at Domvs Romana archaeological site
- HM16/69/2022, Muslim graves at Domvs Romana archaeological site
- HM16/117/2022, consolidation of stones at Xrobb l-Għaġin
- HM16/07/2023, stone statues of Villa Guardamangia
- HM16/11/2023 Padre Pio monument in Paola
- HM16/11/2023, plaster casts at the School of Arts
- HM16/51/2023, application of protective coating to brass parts of cannon FD/8 and FD/9
- HM16/51/2023, wrought iron hooks
- HM16/83/2023, two stone lions at the main staircase of Villa Portelli
- HM16/2/2024, 1938 crest at Fort Delimara
- HM16/5/2024, marble tabletop from Grand Master's Palace
- HM16/10/2024, cleaning of cement residue from the Roman stone mill (Domus Romana)
- HM16/12/2024, three stained glass windows recovered from Boffa Hospital
- HM16/17/2024, Anton Checkov sculpture (MUŻA)
- HM16/21/2024, Les Gavroche bronze sculpture (MUŻA)
- HM16/22/2024, removal of graffiti and treatment for biological growth, Abbatija tad-Dejr
- HM16/24/2024, decorated siege armour (Palace Armoury)
- HM16/28/2024, condition assessment of the collection of pocket watches (MUŻA)
- HM16/45/2024, plaster fragment excavated from Auberge d'Aragon
- HM16/71/2024, conservation work at Bidnija archaeological site
- HM16/73/2024, lot of sixteen quarrying and stonemason's tools (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/82/2024, twenty-three unfired clay sculptures (MUŻA)
- HM16/85/2024, two lanterns of HM Bighi gate
- HM16/90/2024, Seated Potter by Pawlu Scicluna (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/92/2024, Guerriero by Raymond Pitre (MUŻA)
- HM16/93/2024, Prodigal son & Edward Pirotta plaster casts (MUŻA)
- HM16/94/2024, Via Crucis (MUŻA)
- HM16/95/2024, Toni Bajada (MUŻA)
- HM16/97/2024, identifying conservation priorities at Skorba and Ta' Haġrat

- HM16/102/2024, bronze sculpture (MUŻA)
- HM16/103/2024, Ballerina (1966) by Toni Pace (MUŻA)
- HM16/105/2024, hanging hook of Madonna & Child by V. Diacono (MUŻA)
- HM16/113/2024, ceramic handle and rim (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/114/2024, ceramic lid (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/115/2024, ceramic cup (Gozo Museum)
- HM16/125/2024, cleaning of 1749 Cohen marble plaque (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/132/2024, cross-shaped silver reliquary (MUŻA)
- HM16/162/2024, Cippus replica
- HM16/168/2024, King Edward VII – Sciortino plaster statue
- HM16/181/2024, St Augustine of Villaneuva (MUŻA)
- HM16/182/2024, Baptism of Christ (MUŻA)
- HM16/183/2024, Christ falling with the cross (MUŻA)

Public monuments and plaques

- HM16/8/2024, conservation of the ramp of Laparelli-Cassar monument, Valletta
- HM16/11/2023, re-painting letters on the Portuguese Navy plaque at Upper Barrakka
- HM16/14/2024, Manwel Dimech monument, Valletta
- HM16/15/2024, Dom Mintoff monument, Valletta
- HM16/16/2024, inscription of Pawlu Boffa monument, Valletta
- HM16/25/2024, Dun Mikiel Xerri monument, Valletta
- HM16/28/2024, pedestal of Oliver Friggieri monument, Floriana
- HM16/158/2024, removal of wax crayon from Queen Victoria monument, Valletta
- HM16/103/2019, fixing of the letter 'D' of the Independence monument, Floriana

Underwater cultural heritage

- HM16/58/2023, desalination of Salina 2023 material
- HM16/35/2024, objects from the Schnellboot wreck
- HM16/39/2024, porthole from sewage wreck
- HM16/101/2024, archaeological ceramics excavated from an underwater site

Plastics and modern materials

- HM16/99/2021, condition assessment of contemporary art artefacts (MUŻA)
- HM16/3/2024, wax sofa (MUŻA)
- HM16/3/2024, contemporary bust and other works for the Malta Biennale (MUŻA)
- HM16/74/2024, two plastic egg containers, light blue (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/75/2024, cruet set (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/76/2024, light opaque blue plastic cup and yellow transparent plastic cup (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/77/2024, metal kettle 555 with plastic handle (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/78/2024, metal small round saucepan with plastic handle (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/79/2024, two plastic shoe inner supports (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/86/2024, 1970s toy pram (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/87/2024, doll with pacifier (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/89/2024, 1930s-40s spectacles of Curmi (Inquisitor's Palace)

- HM16/106/2024, half wet suit of Honor Frost (Malta Maritime Museum)
- HM16/147/2024, San Martin grapes plastic crate (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/148/2024, Hal Caprat wine bottle crate (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/149/2024, Hal Caprat wine bottle crate (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/151/2024, Hal Caprat wine bottle crate (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/165/2024, pair of shoes (ETHN/F/1716) (Inquisitor's Palace)
- HM16/187/2024, Standing woman and child by Gianni Bonnici (MUŻA)

DIAGNOSTIC SCIENCE LABORATORIES (DSL)

DSL continued its mission to take on projects in support of the curatorial and conservation domains. This year was also pivotal in expanding DSL's staff compliment to better serve and expand DSL's demand for scientific support and research.

DSL's contribution towards Bighi's regeneration continued. In April, manager DSL joined a HM team in a visit to France, touring the Louvre laboratory backend, Louvre Lens Museum and storage facility and the Narbonne Museum. This was part of an HM effort to see how others developed their storage and laboratory facilities. Several ideas were noted for implementation into the new Bighi infrastructural setup.

Aside from IAEA related activities and those related to system procurement, in February, DSL staff took part in a Tektraco chemical storage seminar. This involved novel approaches towards the security of laboratories in the face of chemical and gas cylinder storage risks. In quarter four, DSL's new biologist attended two online training sessions, one on insect identification and the other on termite integrated pest management.

IAEA representation commenced with the opening of the 2024/25 National Project. DSL started by researching experts to support the first activity, a technical expert visit in support of a CT scan design for cultural heritage. Prof. Maria Pia Morigi from the University of Bologna was chosen and visited Malta for a week in July to transfer knowledge on general CT theory and the tools needed to build and operate a large CT scanner that could cater for cultural heritage objects. The whole DSL team attended this technical workshop. Concurrently discussions started off with the IAEA to identify a synchrotron that could cater for a synchrotron applied to cultural heritage training programme. The Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste was chosen. DSL staff visited Elettra in September. The transferred knowledge is already being used at DSL. A project related to painting preparation analysis is being discussed with them. Samples for preliminary analysis have also been submitted to Elettra to determine if the project is feasible. The latter was possible since Elettra and HM signed an MoU in the weeks preceding the visit, promising close collaboration between the two entities in relation to heritage science application. Market research was conducted for the prospective procurement of a new X-radiography tube and flat panel detector, co-financed by the IAEA. From the technical literature and quotations sourced, technical specs were drafted and a budget identified. The latter documentation was submitted to the IAEA in preparation of next year's procurement. DSL also submitted a project note for the 2026/27 national project cycle. This was accepted by the foreign affairs ministry and forwarded to the IAEA. The IAEA then invited DSL to submit its project design, completed over summer. It is currently being

evaluated by IAEA technical officers for feedback.

Two separate unplanned IAEA opportunities also came up during the year. The first was an invitation to participate in an IAEA cultural heritage forensics technical meeting, which took place in Vienna in September. Manager DSL presented his contribution on the state of play in the criminal underworld where it comes to illicit trafficking, fakes and forgeries. The meeting spearheaded discussions which identified Malta as a key political partner with respect to the EU Commission, UN Security Council and OSCE. It is for this reason that internal discussions took place to plan out how this can develop further with Malta acting as a catalyst for future discussions and possible actions.

The second opportunity came following an invitation by Malta's Permanent Representation to the UN in Austria to participate in this year's IAEA ministerial conference, specifically by exhibiting a DSL booth to promote the use of nuclear and near-nuclear techniques in cultural heritage. A HM delegation consisting of manager DSL, a DSL chemist, manager international relations and a paintings principal conservator visited Vienna in November, promoting HM and its scientific services to a wide range of visitors which included IAEA staff, UN, UNICEF and UNIDO staff, government ministers, permanent mission delegates, ambassadors etc. Side meetings took place in which both managers participated, discussing bilateral cooperation on fronts including that related to science applied to cultural heritage crime.

Earlier in the year the IAEA Internal Oversight department head visited Malta to meet cultural heritage stakeholders. DSL was entrusted with coordinating the visit together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visit was part of an audit of the IAEA's operations. Malta was specifically targeted due to the close relationship with the IAEA, being a heavy end-user of their programmes. 2024 also saw the conclusion of the long and delayed radiography certification course. NDT Triton, a Maltese company, provided the practical examination for DSL staff. All staff members passed. DSL is now waiting for documentation for official certification from the Commission for the Protection from Ionising and Non-ionising Radiation.

Once again DSL contributed towards public outreach, achieved through varying forms of activities. The year started with a scientific activity for the public held in conjunction with HM's Education Department. The activity was about the detective investigation of a glass bottle, which went down very well with children and their families.

February saw DSL scientists present at the Ta' Pinu Conservation project book launch. DSL staff dedicated a chapter to the project publication and were thus invited to present a synopsis of results to the public in the presence of the Bishop of Gozo, Mgr Anton Teuma. In February DSL was also present at another event, this time concerning the results related to the conservation project of the Roman Crucifix of the Senglea Parish Oratory. A feature was also released to the general media, in which DSL labs were featured alongside interviews with DSL staff.

February also saw DSL hosting the projects department for a 2-hr scientific orientation workshop. The same month also included the St Edwards Science Fair, in which students were judged on STEM projects. DSL was chosen to nominate a staff member to be on the judging panel. This collaborative effort brought both entities closer to each other, whereby the winners of the competition were given

a half day tour and activity at DSL. In return, the school management offered a tour of the school and its historical highlights.

In May, DSL took part in *KurżitàJiem* at Esplora. This was a weekend dedicated to exhibiting our work in an interactive manner to students and the public. Live analysis was performed using a DSL portable system. The same month also had DSL participate at the Public Service Week (see Figure 1). DSL was entrusted to promote science applied to cultural heritage. Live analysis was also used. Discussing with parents and students their work and how they apply their knowledge to projects was the highlight of this initiative.

DSL also appeared in three media appearances, namely in a news piece related to the Ta' Pinu book launch, another news piece related to the conservation of the Senglea Roman Crucifix and another on the FTIR analysis in support of the conservation works on the D'Amato HMY sign carried out by Prevarti Ltd.



Figure 1. DSL's presence during Public Service Week attracted the attention of hundreds of visitors keen on learning about science applied to cultural heritage. The image on the left shows students attentively following how colour is measured, while on the right, the President of Malta is seen visiting our stand, recollecting her visit to DSL that same month.

DSL continued supervising two University of Malta student Masters studies, one on ancient armour provenance and the other on Ghar Dalam phase pottery white paste characterisation. Both were successful with their projects. Lecturing also continued with the University of Malta Built Heritage Department, whereby three DSL staff members will be lecturing on different analytical techniques. Students reading for a BSc (Hons) in Science Education at the University of Malta were also given a tour of DSL as part of their lecturing portfolio. The start of the year also saw DSL hosting MCAST B.Cons students for a brief tour of DSL, focussing on case studies to showcase the importance of science in the sector.

System upgrades continued. The two microscopes ordered in 2023 were delivered and fully commissioned in March (see Figure 2). Commissioning included staff training on the system software platforms and

microscope care. Their swift purchase and use have been indispensable for all projects. In May a new colorimeter was procured for its setup since new requests could not be carried out with the old 22-year-old system. An online training course was followed for its use.

A biologist, a chemist and senior technical officer were recruited this year. A third call to recruit another chemist was issued in November. All new staff members have hit the ground running and are positively responding to training, promising a successful start to 2025.

Below is a list of the main current research projects DSL is working on/scheduled to work on in 2025.

- Continuation of Ghar Dalam white paste analysis and potential provenance assessment
- Grand Master's Palace armour provenance finalisation
- aDNA of Ghajn Klieb skeletons
- aDNA of Elsa (St Paul's Catacombs)
- Potential initiation of a dietary baseline for certain periods of history
- Roman bread paper finalisation and submission to journal
- Iron Gall and other ink analysis regarding imaging application
- Species ID of particular insects
- Publishing a paper in the Żejtun symposium proceedings Wirt iż-Żejtun bone study
- Caracciolo painting, Flight from Egypt, investigation

In summer Prof. Rosienne Farrugia, Head of Department for Applied Biomedical Science at the University of Malta contacted DSL expressing an interest in aDNA. Prof. Farrugia is interested in expanding her department's DNA application by potentially incorporating aDNA bio informatics into their structure. DSL supports this initiative as having local genetic academics contribute towards HM aDNA projects is imperative in the face of a lack of such experts in Malta. This would fit well with what DSL is trying to do in relation to future research work.

A series of meetings with PCU was also held specifically to discuss the framework needed for an Objects Preservation Policy, that includes Integrated Pest Management strategies alongside preventive management of all our collections. Discussions are to continue into 2025, specifically after the DSL biologist receives training in micro-organism identification, in collaboration with the University of Messina. DSL also accessed the Department for Metallurgy and Materials Engineering, Faculty of Engineering's Raman system, as part of the MoU with the University of Malta.

DSL concluded a total of 29 projects during the year. These were split into 21 HM projects and eight external services. Open projects total 35; 33 of which are internal. These will be transferred to 2025. External projects undertaken by DSL brought an income of €13,033 (excl. VAT).

COLLECTIONS & RESEARCH

Hundreds of cultural heritage items and natural history specimens were acquired for the National Collection. For a full list with details please refer to Appendices 2-5.

Acquisitions

In total 152 donations, covering hundreds of items, were registered, comprising items for all aspects of the collections. Moreover, 162 purchases covering hundreds of artefacts were concluded by HM. Another two paintings purchased by ministries were also registered. Details of these acquisitions are found in Appendices 2-5. Worthy of note are the painting *Ġlieda fil-Mandragġ* by Edward Caruana Dingli, a set of 35 hand-coloured copper engravings by Salvatore Busuttil bound in book titled *Solenne Processione Vaticana del Corpus Domini* (Rome, 1838), a pendant of the Order of Malta with an allegorical scene of Melita, a Tarxien painting by Edward Lear, two portraits showing Cardinal Giovanni Francesco Stoppani and another probably Cardinal Giuseppe Alessandro Furietti, a hand seal belonging to Grand Bailiff Fra Jacques-François de Chambray (1687-1756), a vintage shop sign of the 'Coney Island Bar' (Victoria, Gozo), and several items including maps and rare books from the Albert Ganado and Jimmy Farrugia collections. Some are currently still being catalogued and will feature in next year's report.

The **Collections Management Department** continued with the continuous cataloguing and registering new acquisitions. This year the focus was on standardising the nomenclature of the collections throughout HM and the classifications and object types of the National Collection. All artefacts of heritage value found in ministries and government buildings were issued an object number. New acquisitions acquired by the ministries were also registered in the National Collection and documentation filed. A general audit check was also conducted in March. Particular attention was given to San Anton and Verdala inventories on view of the swearing in of the new President. However the official handover has still not been signed by the Office of the President. Currently an inventory check is being conducted at the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.

The department is also responsible for the registration of conservation projects. A total of 179 conservation projects by the conservation laboratories and diagnostic science laboratories were registered. It is also responsible for issuing, retention, and movement of HM files. Extensive work on retention was done, resulting in the shredding of around two tonnes of paper. The registry was also moved from HM Head Office to Villa Portelli. A new registry procedure was also implemented throughout HM.

Much work has been carried out on the collections of the **National Museum of Natural History**. The Tertiary fossils collection is being re-organised and since a large quantity of specimens were still inside boxes, we realised the need for more metal cabinets. Such order will be made in early 2025. The Quaternary bones collection is being re-organised in new tailor-made cardboard boxes lined with plastazote, and new storage cabinets were purchased. Moreover, Ms Myra Camilleri, B.A. (Arch) student volunteered her time in cataloguing the Quaternary collection. On the other hand, Mr Ivan Zahra, an ex MCAST student, cleaned numerous marine specimens, mainly fish and crustaceans, which were displayed in the Marine Hall.

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. Apart from the cataloguing of the collection, they also donated numerous specimens to the museum's collection. The Maltese Land-snail collection was re-organised according to the new nomenclature. This year the museum received two large donations, that of the Depasquale family and the Rizzo-Naudi family. Both donations contained hundreds of specimens. The former contained some specimens of historical value with material collected by Despott, Mamo, and others.

The entire wet collection was re-organised, and several specimens added to the collection. Various specimens kept in the museum freezers will be wet preserved. Ms Jennifer Fiorentino, who specialises in mosses and lichens, has re-examined the Bankart collection in the Herbarium and as a result a publication is in preparation. The entomology collection kept growing through various donations. The Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) collection is almost organised in their respective cabinets as are the Odonata (Dragonflies) and Orthoptera (Grasshoppers). The largest collection, that of the Coleoptera (beetles) is next, programmed for next year.

The bird collection continued to grow exponentially. The continuous influx of donations and confiscated specimens is creating a major issue when it comes to storage. Four rooms are entirely dedicated to this collection, and a fifth is in preparation. The re-organisation and digitisation of the collection continued and much of the work on the publication of the history of the collection is well underway but had to be postponed since two donations received this year were considered too important to leave out. The large birds display (Giuseppe Despott Hall) was dismantled, and a very well received new display was set up. A bird skeleton collection consisting of a male and female of each species held in the museum freezers was initiated and next year we will setup a dermestid beetle 'farm' at Ghar Dalam to strip specimens to the bone without the need to use chemicals. The decision for the setup to be at Ghar Dalam was to keep the Dermestid beetles (Woollybears) away from the collections.

With respect to digitisation, apart from the ongoing work on the specimens, this year the entire historic photographic collection, consisting of several hundred b/w photos, was digitised. Over 4,000 photographs were shot, including specimens from the Birds, Quaternary Bones, Tertiary Fossils and Entomology collections. The senior curator once again participated in ongoing Sicilian Channel Seabird Project with a visit to the Pantelleria in collaboration with the Institute of Earth Systems and the University of Palermo, and delivered a lecture on 'The Role of the British in the advancement of natural history in the Maltese Islands'.

Several local and foreign students and researchers were provided with assistance and guidance as required. Two BSc. biology undergrad students carried out their project based on the morphology and size in feeding habits of the Short-eared Owl and Scops Owl. The senior curator supervised two students: an undergraduate student from the Institute of Earth Systems successfully defended his dissertation on the abundance and feeding behaviour of the European Bee-Eater in Malta, while Ms Aquila Lambert MSc student (James Madison University, USA) successfully defended her dissertation on the effects of human disturbance on Scopoli's Shearwaters. Mr James Ciarlo is being supervised by the curator on his MSc dissertation on paleoclimate modelling of small islands in the Mediterranean and possible impacts on arthropod habitats. Dr Alicia Ferrari from the University of Bologna sampled

Sawfish rostra from the museum collections and a paper entitled 'Revisiting historical species diversity of the regionally extinct Mediterranean sawfish (Pristiformes) with integrated taxonomy of museum rostra' was submitted to the Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society in November for publication, with the senior curator as a co-author.

Research work on human molars GHD001 and GHD002 continued. The sample collected in 2023 for the DNA analyses was contaminated with animal glue, therefore a further sample was collected this year. Results are expected towards early 2025. Study on the alleged cut-marks found on the bones of hippopotami from the national collections is still underway, with results expected in the coming months. The speleothems paleoclimate study continued, with a small number of samples collected from Ghar Dalam and from other locations in Malta and Gozo.

As in the previous years, the museum building and surrounding grounds provided breeding habitat for the following avifauna species: Collared Dove *Streptopelia turtur* (2-3 pairs); Common Swift *Apus apus* (2 pairs); Sardinian Warbler *Curucca melanocephala* (1 pair); Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius* (1 pair); Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis* (18 pairs); and Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* (3-4 pairs). The resident pair of Blue Rock Thrushes bred again, once in the usual nest near the Mdina Local Council office and the second brood inside a small hole on the roof. Two broods were raised and fledged successfully. For the second year a pair of Common Swifts *Apus apus* managed to raise two chicks in one of the nest boxes: two chicks were ringed by the senior curator.

In June the museum published the first issue of its scientific journal, *Museum Bulletin No.1*, co-edited by David Cilia and John J. Borg. A total of eight original papers on conchology, palaeontology and others were published. The bulletin received great reviews from the local and international scientific communities. Work on the second issue is almost complete and ready for publication.

Curatorial staff and volunteers also authored or contributed in the following papers:

- BORG, J.J. (2024). Notes on the Migration of the Short-toed Eagles *Circaetus gallicus* (Gmelin, 1788) over the Maltese Islands (Central Mediterranean). *Naturalista Siciliano* S.IV.XLVIII (2):107-114.
- BORG, J.J. (2024). Distance from flushing by Spanish Sparrow *Passer hispaniolensis*. *Il-Merill* 35: 18-20.
- BORG, J.J. (2024). The Avifauna of the Maltese Quaternary – a Historical Overview. *Bull. of the Nat. Mus. Nat. Hist, Mdina, Malta* Vol.1: 86-98.
- BORG, J.J. (2024). Nest visits and chick feeding by Yelkouan Shearwaters *Puffinus yelkouan* during the Chick rearing stage. *Naturalista Siciliano*, S.IV,XLVIII (1);: 25:30.
- CILIA D.P., (2024). Contributions to the malacology of Malta, VI: Erroneous records of terrestrial gastropods (Helicidae, Punctidae, and Valloniidae). *Bulletin of the National Museum of Natural History, Malta*, 1 (1): 67-74.

- CILIA D.P., (2024). On the occurrence of the invasive terrestrial flatworm *Obama nungara* Carbayo, Álvarez-Presas, Jones & Riutort, 2016 (Platyhelminthes Geoplanidae) in the Maltese Islands. *Il Naturalista Siciliano*, 48 (1): 35–40.
- CILIA D.P., (2024). On wentletraps (Gastropoda: Epitoniidae) from the Upper Globigerina Limestone Formation (Miocene: Langhian) of Malta. *Bulletin of the National Museum of Natural History, Malta*, 1 (1): 1–16.
- CILIA D.P., NAPPO A. & CARDONA S., (2024). A find of *Coralliophila guancha* Smriglio, Mariottini & Engl, 2003 (Gastropoda: Muricidae) in Maltese waters. *Bulletin of the National Museum of Natural History, Malta*, 1 (1): 25–29.
- CILIA D.P., NAPPO, A., CARONA, S. & DATTOLA, M., (2024). On the first record of the invasive Persian conch, *Conomurex persicus* (Swainson, 1821) (Gastropoda: Strombidae), in the Maltese Archipelago, with supplementary data from the Pelagian Archipelago. *Bollettino Malacologico*, 60 (1): 35–39.
- METZGER, B. BARBARA, N., BORG, J.J. & SULTANA, J. (2024). Assessing the significance of the impact of Yellow-legged Gulls *Larus m. michahellis* on nesting Mediterranean Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* on the island of Filfla. *Il-Merill* 35: 8-17.
- NAPPO, A., CILIA, D.P. & CARDONA, S., 2024. Additions to the marine mollusc fauna of the Maltese Archipelago, with observations on the nomenclature and biogeography of rare or poorly known Central Mediterranean species. *Bollettino Malacologico*, 60 (1): 46–79.
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The data collection on Maltese mammals for the European Mammal Atlas was concluded and sent to the main authors of the project. In the meantime, the senior curator was entrusted with writing two of the chapters, on the Algerian Hedgehog and the Maghrebian Mouse-eared Bat. The publication will be out in 2025.

Rock-movement and atmospheric data logging at **Ghar Dalam** continued. Additional lighting was also installed inside the cave (outer regions) to illuminate darkened areas of the cave at the same time, two lamps in the inner part were switched off to conform with the Natura 2000 Conservation Order. The 3D scanning of bones *in situ* was finalised and now all the exposed bone deposits in the cave have been documented. The flora and fauna inside the cave continued being monitored and logged as in previous years. For the first time in thirty-one years, no Long-eared Bats were recorded inside the cave. The vertebrate and invertebrate fauna in the gardens and surrounding areas were also recorded monthly.

Ms Rochelle Xerri joined the curatorial team as Co-ordinator Curatorial Support (Palaeontology) in July and has been dividing her time between the site and the museum to familiarise herself and re-organise the palaeontological collections. She also started researching the Benghisa Pleistocene and Burmeghež Quaternary sites and delivered a lecture on 'Bones and boundaries: The role of women in early 20th century Maltese palaeontology' as part of the events marking the ICOM European Heritage Days. Two educational excavation pits were set up in November and were successfully tested by three groups of students. A new workbook was prepared to be used on site.

Most of the material which had been excavated from Saqqajja II by Francis Mallia in the 1970s, which was still stored at the National Museum of Natural History, was repacked and transported to the main reserve collection at the **National Museum of Archaeology**. Other artefacts from Rabat and Żejtun excavations were also transferred to the museum. With regard to the CMS metadata inputting, the glossary of terms for the archaeological collection has been completed, and over 4,300 survey sheets, plans and drawing were scanned to be eventually integrated within the GIS-based system.

The complement of the museum increased by one curator and one coordinator curatorial support. Curatorial staff benefited from technical training by attending the following events/courses: Protecting Cultural Heritage from Climate Change, held at Heraklion, Crete in June, ICOMOS Capacity Building for Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context in October-November, and Disaster Risk Management for Cultural Heritage in December. Due to the positive feedback received on the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum Skulls Espresso Exhibition, the display was reinstalled on the 2nd floor of the National Museum of Archaeology as a permanent exhibition. An accompanying information booklet was also published.

Following an open call procedure for recruitment, a Curatorial Assistant was recruited with the **Prehistoric Sites Department (South)** in April. He is shared with the Prehistoric Sites Department (North). In May a full-time curator was also employed.

The senior curator attended a course on Training in Leadership skills aimed for Senior Managers & Managers of HM organized by MCAST. The curator attended the Capacity Building for Heritage Impact Assessment in a World Heritage Context workshop, organised by ICOMOS and the Superintendence

of Cultural Heritage. This was held in October and November and focused on Heritage Impact Assessments to preserve the Outstanding Universal Value of World Heritage properties through practical exercises and collaborative discussions.

The department actively participated in curatorial discussions on the choice of standard terminology to be used while populating the Collections Management System (CMS). A research agenda for prehistoric sites covering general topics related to prehistory as well as site-specific areas of research was created in collaboration with the Prehistoric Sites Department (North). This will guide the approval of research and other projects related to the sites proposed by third parties and will also guide research efforts by the department itself.

In the process of post-excavation of the Xaghra Circle excavations, the department helped organize the photographic archive of the excavations. Members of the department collaborated with the Prehistoric Sites Department (North) in the dusting and cleaning of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra as part of the regular maintenance and conservation of these sites. The department also contributed to and supported the excavations at Xrobb l-Għajin in collaboration with HM's Field Team, with the direct participation of two members and by also providing input with regards to conservation and interpretation of the site and findings. As part of the post-excavation of the material collected from the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex during the excavation of the foundation of the protective shelter in 2014/15, the environmental samples collected and stored at the National Museum of Archaeology were assessed and while some were retained, others were sieved and processed ensuring that environmental samples retained for analysis will provide reliable results.

The department supported the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the reporting on prehistoric sites carried out over the past years by providing the information required. In collaboration with the Prehistoric Sites Department (North), the department drew up a detailed proposal for Development in World Heritage Buffer Zones which was then submitted to the Technical Committee for World Heritage Sites established by the Ambassador for UNESCO. This proposal seeks to ensure that the views and vistas from Prehistoric World Heritage Sites do not continue to be marred by new development and proposes realistic practical development parameters to ensure that the buffer zones of these sites are protected. The department prepared a draft Management Plan for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum which will be submitted to the Ambassador for UNESCO early in 2025 for submission to the World Heritage Committee.

Bi-weekly monitoring of all Planning Applications in buffer zones of Tarxien Prehistoric Complex, Kordin III, Hal Saflieni Hypogeum and Borġ in-Nadur was conducted throughout the year. Developments within the buffer zones are assessed in accordance with the policies outlined in the document 'Proposal for policies related to development in the buffer zones of World Heritage Sites' submitted to the Technical Committee for UNESCO in March 2024. In total, fifty-seven planning applications were submitted within the aforementioned buffer zones during 2024 (Table below) shows a breakdown of all applications submitted.

Feedback was sent by HM on three separate cases. The predominant issues being proposals for the construction of tall buildings which inevitably disturb the site's surrounding vistas.

	Regularizations	Planning Applications	Total
Hal Tarxien	5	14	19
Hal Saflieni	4	21	25
Borġ in-Nadur	0	11	11
Kordin III	0	2	2
Total	9	48	57

Total number of applications submitted within Buffer Zones during 2024

A 3D model of the **Hal Tarxien Prehistoric Complex** was installed and raised on a stone base accompanied by an interpretation panel. New interpretation panels were installed along the walkway, replacing the old panels. Additional panels were also installed in the North Field, *Gnien Dinja Wahda* and along the cemetery boundary wall. An audio guide that visitors can download to their devices by scanning a QR code was launched in September. Interpretation panels and resource pack aimed at young visitors have been drafted and will be completed and launched in 2025.

In February, curatorial staff cleared a pit discovered by Thomas Ashby in 1921. The pit was rediscovered during excavation works for the construction of the protective shelter but had since become the location where visitors throw coins into. Coins were chipping the stone surfaces and rusting and damaging/staining prehistoric surfaces. The coins were collected, its sealing stone repaired by conservators and placed back in its original position sealing it once more. The coins had to be sorted, cleaned and counted, which took months to complete.

Conservators began conservation works on the eastern structure at Tarxien where flaking, detachment of stone faces and other issues were observed. In May, a large stone atop one of the uprights on the Eastern structure was deemed to be a modern addition and was removed. Dusting of the megaliths at Tarxien was also conducted in November by curatorial staff. Artefacts on display at Tarxien were catalogued in preparation for its eventual inputting into the CMS. Research into Zammit's excavation notebooks was also conducted to identify where certain artefacts were discovered during the excavation. The idea is to amalgamate this data into an augmented reality experience emulating the inside of the structure in prehistory which visitors can enjoy.

Environmental conditions and biological activity in the **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** were continuously monitored to ensure the site's long-term preservation. This work involved collaboration with Evolve Ltd., which maintained the site's monitoring equipment and conducted monthly inspections and maintenance. Additionally, work will continue next year to develop a system which will enable remote access to the environmental monitoring data. Environmental data collected through a BMS system was also regularly reviewed to ensure the Hypogeum's environmental conditions remained stable. Biweekly inspections of the Hypogeum, the visitor centre and the installed systems were carried out, with any issues documented on inspection sheets.

Active and preventive conservation measures were implemented to mitigate the impact of biological organisms. These included visual monitoring, removal of species, tracking their spread and locations and the introduction of overshoes to prevent the introduction of additional organisms. 3D documentation was

carried out of the 'Oracle' chamber to have a snapshot of its state of conservation so that it will serve to identify any changes that the chamber undergoes in future. Following this trial, discussions were held with HM's Digitisation Department to develop a methodology for the monitoring of the state of preservation of all the site through periodic 3D documentation, enabling the detection and potential quantification of changes to surface morphology.

The door between the two audiovisual rooms was replaced by a new one in Q3 since this had not been working for a few months affecting the environment in the two rooms. Following installation, the environment in these rooms has now been stabilized.

Following the lease of a government-owned property adjacent to the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum to HM last year, refurbishment work continued and will continue next year. Part of the property is temporarily being converted into a staff room and office. HM additionally signed a promise of sale for another property adjacent to the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum in December. In 2025 plans will be made on how best to integrate and use these properties to address administrative, conservation and interpretation needs of the site.

Work commenced on the development of additional interpretation in the audiovisual rooms of the site and additional panels outlining the safety precautions for visitors to the site. These are expected to be installed in 2025. In keeping with the traditional urban environment of the site, doorknobs inspired by the art found within the site were installed on the front door of the Hypogeum. A tour of the site held on 4 December was reserved for members of the Service Dogs Malta Foundation. The tour was led by the senior curator and since five of the members were blind, the tour was descriptive and adapted to include a hands-on experience using original artefacts as well as replicas.

Curatorial support was provided to two MPhil/PhD students working on their dissertations related to the site. One focused on the environment and conservation, including comparisons with other international sites of a rupestrian and hypogeal nature, while the other explored performance-oriented phenomenology. Throughout the year HM, in collaboration with the National Archives of Malta, continued collecting, documenting and preserving people's recent memories of the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum through the MEMORJA project. The project was promoted through HM's social media posts, the distribution of physical flyers, and interviews on two Maltese television stations.

In collaboration with DSL, a study to detect and scientifically analyse the binders in the red ochre paintings of the site was launched. Following approval from the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, sampling was carried out and sample analysis will be carried out by DSL. 3D documentation of the skull displayed at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum was carried out to by HM's Digitisation Department as part of the effort to document HM's collection. The reorganisation of the archive related to the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum was commenced and will continue into 2025. The aim of this is to ensure that no documentation on the site is lost, and that it is easily accessible to both curators and researchers. Artefacts displayed at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum were catalogued in preparation for their eventual inclusion into the Collection Management System (CMS) currently in development.

The acquisition of land adjacent to the **Borg in-Nadur Prehistoric Complex** was completed, following a promise of sale initiated the previous year. This newly acquired area provides a direct connection between the Neolithic remains and the Bronze Age wall and village.

HM applied for water and electricity on the site, as nearby developments made these services more accessible. A restoration application was submitted to the Planning Authority for the restoration of the three field rooms located on-site. HM property signs were installed on the newly acquired land and collapsed rubble walls were also restored. Efforts focused on clearing the newly acquired area, including the removal of water tanks, accretions, and invasive species. Rubbish continued to be cleared, and modern accretions such as a platform and wall in front of the two field rooms, modern walls, wires and metal poles were removed. Two wells were also cleaned. Artefacts discovered during works included parts of stone bowls, small columns, and circular features. Although these were not *in situ*, they probably are related to the prehistoric complex.

Discussions began with the University of Malta's Archaeology Department regarding experimental archaeology at the site and a project proposal is currently being discussed. Online meetings with the New College of Florida discussed potential GPR and GPS surveys and training at Borġ in-Nadur. The project aims to use Borġ in-Nadur as a platform to test GPR equipment, uncover archaeological features, and provide training for university students from Florida and Malta. The campaign is planned for mid-June to mid-July 2025, with discussions ongoing.

Curatorial staff identified a 1950s dump near the Neolithic remains. Glass and other materials were collected and catalogued for the sake of dating the deposit. Further cleaning and investigation is planned for the future. The origin of two perforated cylindrical stone blocks stored at Għar Dalam was confirmed to be Borġ in-Nadur as they appear in a 1930s photograph by Luigi Maria Ugolini. They will be transferred to the National Museum of Archaeology. The department catalogued 45 artefacts from the 2022 excavation of a 1920s rubble heap at the site. These included stone querns, small columns, and worked stone. Another cluster that was also reburied in the 1920s and excavated in 2023 will be catalogued next year. All items will eventually be stored at the National Museum of Archaeology.

360-degree photographs were taken of the views from Borġ in-Nadur documenting surrounding buildings and skylines to aid in the assessment of planning applications in the area. Nine information panels focusing on the surrounding landscape, vernacular architecture and Bronze Age village were prepared for installation in 2025.

The **Prehistoric Sites (North) Department** increased its staff with a Coordinator Curatorial Support, shared with the Prehistoric Sites (South) Department in April. A full-time curator joined the department in July. Both participated in induction training, and were also given extensive training in the workings of the department, becoming valued members of the curatorial team.

The conservation maintenance programme continued in Apse 3 at **Ħaġar Qim**. Work included pointing and repair, supporting unstable megaliths and replacing previous repair with portland cement with a specially-produced mortar mix that had been approved by the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic temples. Interventions were documented on a format agreed on with the Conservation Department and a conservation report was produced. Lidar scanning of Ħaġar Qim was carried out.

The collaboration between the Prehistoric Sites Department (North) and the University of Malta's Faculty for the Built Environment ensued with continued monitoring and studies into the role of

protective shelters in the conservation of the Megalithic Temples, with Mnajdra as a case study. As part of this collaboration, the senior curator participated in the MetroArcheo – 2024 IEEE International Conference on Metrology for Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, as co-organizer and panellist in the roundtable discussion entitled: 'Evaluating the Performance of Protective Shelters: Challenges and Future Directions'. She also co-authored a paper on the topic that is also being published in the proceedings of the conference. Environmental data continues to be collected at regular intervals and from specific areas within the site. Equipment gathering this data was maintained on a regular basis.

Accumulated dust was brushed from megaliths in both Haġar Qim and Mnajdra in collaboration with other curatorial departments, as well as the Classics and Archaeology Students Association at the University of Malta (CASA). Additionally, grass was trimmed from within the North structure at Haġar Qim and the East remains at Mnajdra. These activities address potential negative impacts of accumulated dust and grass on the megalithic sites, while offering archaeology students a valuable opportunity to participate in the preventive conservation process at these World Heritage Sites.

As part of the initiatives relating to the maintenance of the environment within the park, several indigenous shrubs were planted close to Mnajdra to continue to restore the garigue. Invasive plants that are noted within the park are also regularly removed.

Research into archival photos depicting Haġar Qim and Mnajdra is currently underway. The initial phase involves sorting all historical photographs and illustrations available to the department. These visuals are being organized according to the different areas marked by J.D. Evans on his site plans, as well as the cataloguing of apses and megaliths undertaken by the department. This research aims to enhance the understanding of the deterioration processes affecting the megaliths, improve site interpretation, and support further research on these monuments. Other research is currently underway to update the existing interpretation panels at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, enhancing the visitor experience. Installation is planned for 2025.

Cataloguing of the artefact store housed within the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park was concluded. This store houses material from excavations at the Xaghra Circle and the excavation of foundations for the protective shelter and walkway at Tarxien, as well as artefacts from minor works at Borġ in-Nadur and Skorba. A labelling system was created for these artefacts, that clearly indicates the content of each crate easily eliminating unnecessary handling. Data relating to the artefact collection at the Visitor Centre was gathered in preparation for inputting into HM's Collections Management System. Together with basic information about the artefacts, main interpretations and references to major publications were also noted. The Department also continued to support the Seismic Monitoring and Research Group within the Department of Geosciences at the University of Malta, facilitating regular monitoring and maintenance of the seismic station hosted at the park.

Work began on sorting the digitised photo archives of the **Ta' Haġrat and Skorba** sites to gain a better understanding of how the sites transformed over time. This work will continue throughout the next year and has informed the development of an activity, which includes comparing modern photos with historical ones to assess notable differences, such as preservation and physical impacts on the sites. Retrieval of the catalogue of artefacts found at Ta' Haġrat and Skorba, compiled on CDs in 2008 for the Med.Archeo. Sites project, was carried out to digitally store the catalogue into the department's online system.

A condition assessment of Ta' Haġrat was carried out in collaboration with the Conservation Department. This was followed by conservation maintenance work by the conservation team, mainly focussing on pointing and repair. Interventions were documented on a format agreed on with the Conservation Department and a conservation report was produced. A condition assessment was also carried out at Skorba, with conservation work at this site set to begin in 2025. In conjunction with the condition assessments at both sites, numbers assigned to megaliths were checked, verifying existing numbers and related documentation and assigning new numbers where necessary. This work will continue into next year with assigning numbers to megaliths at Skorba that are currently outside the site's boundary.

Vegetation at both sites was trimmed, to reduce potential damage to the structures due to biological growth at these sites. The department carried out cleaning of the floor holes found at the entrance of Skorba to expose them, as they were filled with soil and biological growth. This will continue to be carried out from time to time, as required. A number of modern cut stone blocks were removed from Ta' Haġrat. These modern infiltrations were affecting the overall aesthetic of the site and were deemed out of place. Dumping of mounds of aggregate in a field adjacent to Skorba was reported to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, which issued an Enforcement Notice and is investigating further. New information panels are being created for Skorba. These panels will feature updated text and photos to reflect recent research.

Ta' Haġrat and Skorba were selected as case studies for the Heritage Impact Assessment workshops organized by ICOMOS International. The participants were divided into four groups: two groups assessed a fictitious development proposal near Ta' Haġrat, while the other two assessed another fictitious proposal near Skorba. Each group first evaluated the values of the sites and identified their attributes. They then analysed how the development proposals might impact these attributes. At the end of the course, each group presented their outcomes. One of the workshops included a visit to both sites, where the department's senior curator led a tour, focusing on the archaeological significance of the sites, their importance to the surrounding community, and the impact of nearby development on these World Heritage properties.

Excavations were not conducted at the **Xaghra Circle** in 2024, with the time dedicated for this project spent conducting specialist post-excavation work and documentation, in order to be able to refine and finalize the new methodology trialled in 2022. This work was carried out throughout April. The Field Team's osteologist continued to analyze bone excavated in 2022, looking at taphonomy, pathology, age, and sex. Concurrently, skeletal remains continued to be inventorized according to HM's central system, in preparation for their eventual transfer to the national collection. Work also continued on the archive of the excavation and organizing it into the project inventory system. This year, the main focus of this aspect of the project was the photographic archive, with all photographs sorted and filed according to date. Each photo is now being captioned, a process that will continue through 2025. Any new photos taken during forthcoming seasons of the excavation will be integrated within this system. Several 3D models were also run as part of the documentation process.

The Department continued to assist the Gozo Area Office with regard to planning applications in the buffer zone of the Ġgantija Archaeological Park. Some recent planning approvals are resulting in precedents for applications which would deteriorate the complex's vistas.

With respect to **UNESCO**, senior curators for the Prehistoric Sites North and South departments worked on a proposal for policies related to development in the buffer zones of World Heritage Sites. The proposal considers the values of the sites in the inscription 'The Megalithic Temples of Malta' and makes recommendations that will aid the preservation of the sites. The main recommendations are to adopt and enforce the requirement for Heritage Impact Assessments to be carried out within the buffer zones of World Heritage Sites and to categorize these buffer zones into smaller zones with differentiated development approaches to facilitate the protection of the values of the sites.

The Prehistoric Sites Department continued to be consulted by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage on planning applications in the buffer zones of sites inscribed on the World Heritage list managed by the department. In addition to these consultations, the Department also monitors all new applications submitted to the Planning Authority within the buffer zones and other applications in the surrounding wider setting of the sites that might have an impact on the said sites. In 2024, 65 planning applications were submitted in the buffer zone for Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba and 11 in the buffer zone for Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra.

The Department was also consulted on several issues related to development applications in the buffer zones of World Heritage Sites by the National Technical Committee for World Heritage. In collaboration with the Field Team, maps of all six components of the inscription The Megalithic Temples of Malta were submitted to the World Heritage Centre through the Office of the Permanent Representative to UNESCO. The department also made a request to the Technical Committee to consider extending the buffer zone of Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba to match the Area of Archaeological Importance for the same sites.

In conclusion of the Third Cycle of Periodic Reporting, the Regional Action Plan for Europe and North America for 2024-30 was submitted by the WH Centre to the WH Committee and adopted in July. This plan will inform priorities for local WH sites during this period. Preparatory work for the management plan for the 'Megalithic Temples of Malta' also began, using the Enhancing Our Heritage Toolkit to assess current management practices within the sites, identify gaps and propose priority actions. Work on the management plan is set to continue throughout 2025.

The curator attended a series of workshops organized by ICOMOS International in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage on Capacity Building in World Heritage Impact Assessment. This department manages four of the World Heritage properties that form part of the serial inscription of The Megalithic Temples of Malta, making this training particularly relevant for curatorial staff. The training covered various aspects, including evaluating whether a heritage impact assessment is necessary, developing terms of reference for such assessments, analysing the values and attributes of World Heritage sites, and the use of toolkits to assess the impact of development on a site's attributes throughout the development lifecycle—from implementation to operational phases and decommissioning. It focused not only on the potential impact of development within the buffer zone of the sites but also on the impact of development within the wider setting. The sites of Skorba and Ta' Ħaġrat were used as case studies.

On the request of the World Heritage Centre, the department submitted two questionnaires – on UNESCO Conventions and on Climate Action. Responses to the latter, on work being done at the

Megalithic Temples of Malta, were shortlisted and presented by the senior curator to the Climate Action Work Group in February. The department also collated information on documents submitted to the WH Centre in the past years, following a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The department also participated in reviewing the Draft Management Plan for Valletta as part of the public consultation process, contributing to feedback presented by the Agency.

The CD archive stored at the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park was reorganised and sorted by site. This reorganisation proved valuable for an ongoing project aimed at converting all audiovisual material into a digital format. Curatorial staff regularly assisted students at various levels with their research on several aspects of the management of archaeological sites and museum. Descriptive texts about the sites managed by the department were submitted for the online travel guide *Petit Futé*.

Throughout the year, the Coordinator, Curatorial Support conducted scientific research on the white-infilled decorations of Għar Dalam phase pottery, focusing on the material composition and the manufacturing techniques involved in producing it. The results of the project were presented to the curatorial team, offering further insights into ongoing research related to the sites managed by the department. This research will continue into next year. Additionally, he started collaborating with the University of Malta on a project that aims to establish a fabric classification system for Għar Dalam and Skorba pottery based on scientific analysis. This work is also set to continue into the coming year and should result in a published research article.

The department contributed to an issue about Malta in *Antike Welt*, a German magazine about history and archaeology, with a paper about the Bronze Age. An index of prehistoric sites discovered during development projects was created from annual reports published by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. This was then extended to include prehistoric sites discovered and included in Museum Annual Reports. This provides a wider context for sites managed by HM and will aid further research on prehistory.

Together with Prehistoric Sites South, the department developed a research agenda for general topics related to prehistory and the management of megalithic sites, as well as topics specific to each site managed by the department. This was submitted internally to be included in Heritage Malta's research agenda that will guide research priorities for the Agency. The department also participated in discussions relating to the terminology to be used for archaeological collections within the Agency's Collections Management System.

Members of the Department contributed to excavations being carried out by the Field Team. This included excavations at Xrobb l-Għaġin, where they continued to uncover megalithic remains that are threatened by erosion, and at MUŻA. The department also participated in the sorting and sieving of environmental samples from the excavations for the foundations of the Tarxien protective shelter and walkway. Support was also provided in two campaigns of cleaning of earthworm casts at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum; in a tree-planting activity at Gnien Dinja Wahda at Tarxien, and in the dusting sessions of megaliths at Tarxien.

Senior curators of the Prehistoric Sites North and the Prehistoric Sites South departments conducted continuous professional development training for conservators practicing on the Maltese Islands. The course focussed on conservation practices at the megalithic sites and archaeological considerations for the conservation of materials typically found in archaeological contexts. The senior curator participated in the MetroArcheo – 2024 IEEE international conference on metrology for archaeology and cultural heritage, as co-organizer and panellist in a roundtable discussion on the protective shelters over megalithic sites. The curator attended a conference organized by the Public Works Department on coastal erosion and climate change adaptation. Throughout the year, members of the department attended several webinars on interpretation, dark sky initiatives across Europe, and accessible interpretation.

The **St Paul's Catacombs** continues to be at the forefront of innovative heritage management, with several major projects underway to enhance the visitor experience while preserving the site's historical and archaeological significance. These initiatives reflect a commitment to storytelling, accessibility, and sustainability, ensuring the site remains both a vital cultural asset and a compelling destination. A cornerstone of current efforts is the integration of the Ghajn Klieb/ Ghajn Qajjed artefacts, which includes the display of a sarcophagus alongside new audiovisual installations. This project involves the curation and contextualisation of these artefacts, weaving them into the broader narrative of the area's burial history. An entirely new display is being designed, along with modifications to site infrastructure and visitor flow to create an engaging experience. Another endeavour is the reconstruction of a human face based on a skeleton uncovered on-site, known as Skeleton 248. This reconstruction will provide a tangible, human connection to the individuals who once lived and were interred at the catacombs, offering visitors deeper insights into Roman and early Christian communities in Malta.

Significant changes are also being made to improve the layout and facilities at the site. The existing foyer will be repurposed into a shop area, with options currently being weighed for the re-use of the current exit building. The Eulogia Hall will house a virtual reality experience in part of the space, with the remainder designated for multipurpose use. This dual approach ensures the hall retains its versatility while integrating modern technology to immerse visitors in the site's history. The original plan for the St Paul's Catacombs included educational and activity packages to enhance the visitor experience. Among these was the Children's Excavation Pit, designed to engage young visitors in hands-on learning. By digging in the pit, children could uncover fixed artefacts, identify them, and date them based on visual cues and information provided on surrounding panels. Significant progress has been made on the project.

The museum and audio-visual room continue to rely on data loggers to monitor environmental conditions, maintaining stable temperature and humidity levels essential for preserving artefacts and displays. Humidity has been identified as the primary challenge, with the current dehumidifier proving ineffective. The main issue stems from the exposed burial area at the Visitor Centre renders the dehumidifier's efforts futile as it competes with external environmental conditions. Mitigation measures are currently being identified and studied.

The frescoed catacombs, particularly vulnerable to natural and human-induced deterioration, are under review for potential temporary or permanent closure to safeguard them until further conservation measures are implemented. Conservation monitoring initiated earlier this year is

focusing on environmental conditions and visitor impacts to guide future strategies. Enhanced visitor education remains a priority, with proposed initiatives including posts on social media, audio guides, displays at the visitor centre, and signage on closed hypogea.

Following numerous occasions in which visitors were found roaming beyond the designated walkway, some walkways are being installed with protective netting to prevent unauthorized access. Some of these forays have resulted in one plug-stone within catacomb 3 to be toppled over and the disturbance in the protective torba placed in certain tombs to protect archaeological deposits. As such, apart from the netting, a system of custom-made slabs is being used to cover the most delicate tombs.

Intrusive roots from tree species such as *Eucalyptus cf. camaldulensis*, *Prunus sp.*, and *Morus sp.* continue to threaten the structural stability of the catacombs. Routine root removal is conducted, but additional measures are required to address the regrowth of invasive species. Catacombs 16, 11, and 23 are being assessed to monitor root regrowth, identify vulnerable cracks, and determine appropriate biological and structural interventions. Biological growth presents another significant conservation challenge, especially in areas exposed to sunlight through the gates leading to the catacombs or artificial lighting. Routine applications of site-specific biocide are recommended alongside rotational closures of hypogea to reduce sunlight penetration. Narrow-spectrum yellow or orange LED bulbs (595 nm) are being considered as replacements for the existing lighting in the catacombs, thereby removing the need for filters.

Abbatija Tad-Dejr has undergone cleaning and biocide treatment. Cleaning included the removal of accumulated dust and spray paint that obscured the site's carved features. Biocide treatment, on the other hand, targeted biological growth such as algae that thrive in humid and sheltered conditions typical of underground environments.

As part of our efforts to manage and revitalise the Abbatija tad-Dejr Community Garden, a meeting was held with the tenants to address concerns regarding the upkeep of the garden plots. Discussion is currently under way to redefine a sustainable vision for the garden, to be implemented upon the expiration of current contracts in 2025. The proposed strategy is a collaborative and sustainable framework centred on active engagement with the existing tenants and the new ones. Another key aspect of the strategy is an emphasis on educational outreach. Informative panels will be installed at each plot, providing visitors with insights into the cultivation techniques being used. These explanations aim to dispel misconceptions about different practices, such as integrating vegetable cultivation with natural weed growth. By clarifying the purpose and methodology behind these approaches, the panels will foster a deeper appreciation of the garden's diversity and its ecological significance.

In 2023, discussions with private landowners were initiated regarding access and management improvements for the **Tas-Salina Catacombs**. These catacombs require enhanced safety measures to minimize the impact of occasional visitors. Discussions and preparations in this regard are ongoing. Similarly, the **St Augustine Catacombs** have seen limited visitor engagement over the past year. However, the department strategically decided to maintain accessibility to this site during events hosted at the St Paul's Catacombs, leveraging the potential increase in visitors drawn to the larger complex.

Ta' Bistra Catacombs continue to uphold the tradition of welcoming visitors on the last Sunday of every month. Over 300 visitors were welcomed to the site. In addition, the site hosted an exclusive members-only tour in July. The site is becoming a focal point for conservation efforts. A vegetation survey was conducted to address ongoing issues with biological growth, particularly cyanobacterial growth and salt deposits resulting from high humidity and water ingress. A site visit in November indicated temperature and humidity fluctuations across the site. Based on these findings, recommendations were made to reduce sunlight and prevent further biological growth, as well as to address stone flaking caused by wet-dry cycles and water infiltration. Discussions about the use of nearby land for community allotments or vegetation planting will be pursued in 2025. A reinterpretation plan for Ta' Bistra is also underway.

Archaeologists have monitored the repair of the rubble walls at **Ta' Kaċċatura**. The walls, many of which have deteriorated, have been carefully examined as some have revealed archaeological materials once repurposed to build the wall, including worked stones, ceramic fragments, and volcanic rock. In addition to the walls, new features such as a rectangular cut in the bedrock and two wells were discovered. Additionally, plans were discussed to deter pigeons from nesting on site, particularly to preserve the main cistern.

Work at **Ta' Mintna Catacombs** continued to focus on addressing the structural issues caused by the weight of nearby private vehicles. Discussions with the Mqabba Local Council regarding the installation of bollards to prevent parking on the site are ongoing and an application to the Planning Authority is in progress. The team continues regular maintenance, including pest control, cleaning, and minor repairs. To continue the annual tradition, the site also hosted its Open Day event in October, which attracted a positive turnout and helped foster further community engagement with the site, with some locals expressing gratitude for the opportunity to finally visit a site that they have lived nearby their whole lives. Plans to pursue conservation projects began in December, focusing on ventilation and fissure monitoring.

In September **Tas-Silġ** hosted the 3D Heritage Innovators Exchange programme in collaboration with professionals from the University of Cyprus, Cyprus University of Technology, Techniker (Spain), and UNESCO. This programme focused on digitising Tas-Silġ using cutting-edge technologies, including Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) for the column bases of the Punic temple dedicated to Astarte. 3D scans of various architectural elements were also carried out, employing both advanced digital cameras and scanning equipment, as well as mobile phones. The resulting data will be used by HM for conservation and biological mapping of the site. Works at **Ras ir-Raheb** were at a bare minimum and primarily limited to regular inspections.

Bidnija saw a flurry of activity. Thanks to the agreement with Ambjent Malta, works commenced on the restoration of all the rubble walls within the site. These include the removal of invasive species, the restoration of a dilapidated water reservoir and the restoration of the historic qanat. Given the sensitive nature of the site, works are being monitored by archeologists. Although work was significantly slow due to contractors and archaeological issues, some progress has been made on the reconstruction of the walls around two of the fields. Most importantly, these works have uncovered the presence of further Classical walls and significant remains, including part of a marble statue and part of a Roman dolium. These finds tie in nicely with the archaeological research project initiated this year on

the site in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the University of Malta. These excavations have mostly confirmed the presence of substantial (possibly Classical) structures identified by the GPR exercise carried out a few years ago on the site. Given that this excavation is serving as a training school for the students of the Department of Classics and Archaeology, progress was slow, but it was enough to ascertain the high level of preservation of these remains. This project is expected to run yearly for an indefinite number of years.

A special workshop was held at **San Pawl Milqi** in March. This involved a recreation of a fake outdoor archaeological site crime scene intended for training of both foreign and local police officers in dealing with this specific type of crime. The workshop was organised by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and was coordinated by Prof. Timmy Gambin. Matthias Scicluna, a second-year student of Archaeology at the University of Malta, paid a visit to San Pawl Milqi site together with his tutor Dr Maxine Anastasi on 2 May. As part of his thesis on *cocciopesto* floorings discovered in Roman agricultural villas, he needed to document lime-based features at San Pawl Milqi. The on-site documentation process started in December.

At the **Domvs Romana**, efforts to ensure better climatic conditions for the mosaics in the peristyle area as well as for the artefacts continued. In November, two glass sliding doors were installed to individually seal off the main hall, the staircase area, and the peristyle area. To ensure continuous climatic data collection, thermometers and hygrometers were installed in each showcase in March to monitor the levels of humidity and temperature.

In May, a condition assessment was carried out by a team (Horizon Europe Stecci team) composed of personnel from the University of Applied Arts, Vienna and from the University of Split, Croatia. Apart from sample elevation, this exercise comprised mostly non-invasive methods. It focused on the Islamic tombs in the rear area of the Domvs Romana but other structural remains in the area were also included. A condition assessment of a Muslim grave in the ruins' area on the rear of the Domvs Romana was also carried out.

The completion of the display is reaching its final stages. When complete, the showcase containing the dough will be accompanied by an audio-visual presentation highlighting the analysis process which the dough went through. Furthermore, there will be also accompanying information panels and the reconstructed *catillus* / grain mill to highlight the process of bread making in Roman times. The reconstructed *catillus* will be made up of a lower part brought from the rear of the Domvs Romana where it was being kept and an upper part brought from the National Museum of Archaeology stores, which had been found at excavations in Hal Far. New interpretation was added to explain the use of railway lines as roof support beams with reference to one such example at the Domvs Romana, supporting the roof at one point in the corridor surrounding the peristyle mosaic floor. Meanwhile, following further scientific analyses, what was held to be bread found at **Ta' Gawhar** round tower was confirmed to be unbaked dough.

Following a temporary exhibition at the National Museum of Archaeology of a Late Roman oil lamp found at Żejtun in 1912 and to which the national poet Dun Karm Psaila has dedicated a poem, preparations started to have it transferred for permanent display at the Domvs Romana. The same showcase and panels will be used for this permanent display but, in addition to these, a voice

recording of this poem in Maltese together with a QR code to access this recording on a mobile phone were created. Moreover, a new guidebook on the site was launched officially in April, while a complete draft of the new audio guide was submitted in November.

Three foreign institutions: Intercontinental Archaeology, the University of South Florida, and the University of North Alabama, together with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage joined forces again with HM to continue the archaeological excavations on selected areas in the immediate precincts of the Domvs Romana as well as in its wider buffer area as part of the **Melite Civitas Romana project**. The aim was largely to reassess previous excavations. The whole excavation exercise was spread over four weeks in June. Meanwhile, in June, the plaster that was exposed on a wall in Area 2 during the current excavations was consolidated in situ.

As part of a monitoring programme to monitor perched aquifers, personnel from the Energy and Water Agency in May, sought to monitor the flow of the spring very close to the **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths**.

The **Archaeological Research Unit** took part in a research season, primarily held in April with the occasional meeting slotted in throughout the year. Work focused on the post-excavation processing of skeletal remains extracted from **Xagħra Circle** in 2022. Work is also being carried out on the organisation of written, drawn and photographic documentation. 3D models are being rendered, as needed, to produce accurate visual representation of the various stages of excavation.

The fourth season of the **Xrobb l-Għagin** Project involved the identification and re-opening of trenches from the original excavation of the megalithic structure back in 1914-15. Ashby's report of the excavation and old photos helped identify these trenches. The trenches helped to give a better understanding of how the megalithic structure's torba flooring was constructed. As in previous years, the excavated area was recorded through photogrammetry and a condition assessment of the exposed structure was carried out by conservators. Results from the previous seasons condition assessment of the site were used to help in the planning of the uplifting and relocation of the megaliths of the central passage, to salvage them for prosperity. However, due to very high winds during the second half of the excavation season, the uplifting had to be limited to only those that could be lifted by hand. Prior to lifting, one of the stones from the apse threshold needed consolidation. Some of the 'torba' flooring was consolidated in preparation for uplifting next season.

The unit has been tasked with monitoring the dismantling, restoration and reconstruction of the rubble walls surrounding the site of **Ta' Kaċċatura**; within the limits of the Għar Dalam Park. The area under study is of high archaeological significance, with discoveries in the area spanning from prehistory up to the British period. Though the proposed works themselves are relatively non-invasive, the probability of finding worked stones from the surrounding archaeological sites re-purposed to build these rubble walls is quite high. Four rubble walls were completed. Six worked stones were recorded within these rubble walls, including a heavily weathered column segment. An additional three features were also discovered in the process. The first feature is a rectangular cut in bedrock with rounded corners, measuring roughly 1m x 1.80m. The depth is unknown as the feature is full of soil and rubble. The current interpretation is that of a shaft, however, with the information currently available, it is unclear whether this shaft belongs to a tomb, cistern or well. Unfortunately, this feature falls just outside of HM

property and therefore will have to remain un-investigated. The two other features are both probably wells, one of which is still functioning. Discussions are underway on how to incorporate these features within the Archaeological Park.

Collaboration on the **Għajn Klieb** project continued between HM, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, and the University of Malta. Regular meetings are being held in which the entities update one another on ongoing post-excavation processing of finds, conservation treatments and research. The process of sieving and sorting the cremated remains is now complete and work is due to start cataloguing and analysing the human skeletal remains in the coming year.

As in previous years, the unit was heavily involved in the excavations being carried out by the **Melite Civitas Romana Project** at the Domvs Romana. Works in this exceptional site included the removal of a spoil heap left by excavations in the early 20th century as well as an active role in the dig. The excavations continue to attract the attention of numerous students and volunteers from across the globe, with 60 persons from at least 10 countries participating this year. Excavations continued in three main areas. In area 1, works focused in two main zones, with the final closure of one of the earliest trenches. Highlights in this area included the discovery of a possibly intact burial and further understanding of the development of the area after the site's discovery in the 1880s. In area 2, works progressed with the investigation of the road baulks with the extraction of datable data that may eventually aid us in the chronological re-evaluation of the site. Also of note is the discovery of a link between area 2 and area 3, with the discovery of doorways and continuing architecture. In area 3, works focused on the removal of a baulk retained during Zammit's excavations and the investigation of the stratigraphy sealed by it, all of which will help us understand the development of this zone in the Roman, and possibly earlier, phases. This year's excavations resulted in the acquisition of around 30 crates of finds, all of which are currently undergoing post-excavation.

The unit has been tasked with monitoring the dismantling, restoration and reconstruction of the rubble walls within the agricultural fields in **Bidnija** and to carry out, in close collaboration with the Department of Classics and Archaeology (University of Malta) and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, an archaeological excavation at the site. First recognized at the beginning of the 20th century by the discovery of an 'oil press' and other worked stones (including a 'stone trough'), the site was surveyed by an extensive and systematic fieldwalking between 2008 and 2010. The project confirmed the occupation of the area from the prehistoric period to the modern era. In addition, the use of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) in some of the fields near the 'oil press' uncovered a large, buried building with two apses and a long rectangular structure of which purpose and chronology remained unknown. With the main aim to record and better understand the stratigraphy and the nature of the mentioned building, in summer, three targeted trenches were set and opened. These were stratigraphically excavated by the university students and supervised by HM, Superintendence and University site directors. A fourth trench was also initiated in proximity of the oil vat to investigate any survived stratigraphy around the feature and to clarify its chronology.

The excavation has mainly confirmed the presence of the structures previously identified by the GPR, but it has also uncovered remains of well-preserved plasters against the walls and a rich stratigraphy. Studies of the cultural material is currently underway. The monitoring of the dismantling of the rubble walls (commenced in March and still ongoing) have also uncovered interesting features such as

ashlars blocks and new stone alignments. Interesting finds included a portion of a marble statue and a large fragmented dolium.

The archaeological investigations of the raised garden bed at **Villa Guardamangia** were continued. Excavation revealed that the deposits here were too disturbed by root activity to provide any further information. Work therefore shifted to focus on the passageway running down the centre of the garden. Two trenches were opened in the passageway. After removing a layer of concrete and its underlying preparation layer, an older passageway was exposed. The earlier passageway is composed of small pebbles, adhered together with mortar. The passageway is slightly raised in the middle so that water is directed into two water channels flanking either side of the passage.

The unit caught up with the post-excavation processing of documentation and artefacts from two interventions carried out at **San Pawl Milqi**. The first was the excavation of the trial pit to accommodate an electricity pole, carried out in 2022. This year, we were able to complete the digitisation of the manual drawings and organise all the documentation.

The second intervention is the collection of artefacts from a spoil heap left behind from the Missione excavations of 1963-68. The unstratified context of these artefacts allowed us to involve members of the public in the form of an activity on open days. The public would help with collecting, sorting and washing ceramic remains. Since the public collected more material than could be washed, members of the unit continued to process the material throughout the year. Some pieces that required conservation were sent for treatment. The team is now in the process of organising another such open day in 2025 to continue this exercise.

The involvement of the unit at **St Paul's Catacombs** was twofold; both unfortunately concerned the mitigation of damage caused by visitors. The first intervention was the archaeological excavation of a child locus within Catacomb 6, Tomb 24. This locus was previously sealed, however, over time visitors had progressively removed the mortar seal, resulting in the creation of a small hole leading into the tomb. This hole could result in environmental changes capable of deteriorating the skeletal remains. It also gives access to small animals to enter and disturb the tomb contents and encourages other visitors to continue damaging the seal to get a sneak peek inside the tomb. The decision was therefore taken to archaeologically excavate the tomb and remove the skeletal remains for analysis. Removal of the sealing slab revealed a single, well preserved, and mostly fully articulated neonate skeleton. No grave goods were present, however, curiously, two stones were noted underneath part of the skeletal remains. The interpretation is that the stones were being used as wedges to turn the individual slightly onto the right side of their body. This could have the additional function of securing the body towards the back of the tomb.

The second intervention entailed a series of 'backfill-maintenance' exercises carried out in Catacombs 6, 11, 16 and 23. Photographic and written records were taken of any damages noted within the catacombs, the most common of which is the removal of backfill material and geotextile from within the tombs. This was presumably done by visitors so that they could see what was underneath. The team went on to arrange the geotextile and replace the backfill within the tombs. Any other issues were brought to the attention of the curators and conservators as needed. Photographs were taken again at the end of the exercise to have a record of the site as we left it after maintenance. This will

assist in determining the frequency and degree of damage caused by visitors so that the appropriate mitigation measures can be put into place.

Members of the unit were appointed as **archaeological monitors** for works at Tarxien Prehistoric Complex, the National Museum of Natural History, Ġgantija, Bidnija, MUŻA and Ta' Kacċatura. The monitors are responsible for communicating with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, preparing the necessary documentation, and ensuring that ongoing works on site are in line with the Cultural Heritage Act.

Apart from the relatively large-scale projects mentioned above, the team was also involved in the following work:

- Assisted in the design for the new display case for the skeletal remains of 'Elsa' in St Paul's Catacombs.
- Assisted in ongoing research on the skulls collected from the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.
- Continued post-excavation works for past excavations, primarily St Augustine's Catacombs. This included artefact storage, arranging of the database and photography.
- Began the post-excavation processing of finds from excavations at Tas-Silġ and the organisation of written and photographic documentation on site.
- Assisted university students with their queries, took part in lecturing sessions, and participated in interviews for their dissertations as needed.
- Carried out surveys of Triq Ġhajn Hamiem (adjacent to the Domvs Romana) and the Grand Master's Palace, to assist with the planning of projects.
- Took part in the '3D Heritage Innovators Exchange' programme at Tas-Silġ where participants were trained on the technologies and methodologies for the 3D digitisation of cultural heritage sites.
- Public outreach. Took part in the 'Teen Science Café' sessions carried out at Handaq Middle School, explaining the role of an archaeologist and the importance of science within the field.

Throughout the year, the unit was entrusted with the creation of HM's **extended research agenda**. This was done in collaboration with other curatorial departments, particularly those involving archaeological sites, but also Natural History, UCHU and DSL. This resulted in a comprehensive research 'wish-list' that looks at both archaeological phases and individual sites. The list is in its final stages of drafting and shall be discussed further with the SCH and NARCH before it is officialised by the agency. Apart from helping in the creation of a research path within HM, this list will also help the unit and other sections in identifying possible projects and avenues of collaboration with third parties. In this regard, the unit was also entrusted with the overhaul of the current **project application system** through which student and third-party researchers can apply to HM. These are currently in the drafting phase and should be finalised by the first quarter of 2025.

No new underwater site was opened to the diving public this year by the **Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit (UCHU)**, however documentation has been prepared to open a new site in 2025.

The visits to the various underwater sites this year was as follows:

Site	Number of Divers
B24 Liberator	30
HMS Olympus	15
HMS Russell	3
JU88	43
L72	18
Nasturtium	65
Polynesien	164
Schnellboot	35
Southwold Bow	43
Southwold stern	65
Spitfire	11
Trusty Star	5

Dive School/Club	Number of Divers	Ticket sales
7Rdiving	33	298
Atlantis Diving Centre	18	207
Dawn Diving	9	114
Dive Systems W.S. LTD	40	501
DiveWise	78	722
Maltaqua	72	1196
Seashell Dive Centre	38	402
Technical Diving Malta LTD.	50	491
Underwater Enterprises LTD	7	56
Atlam dive club	106	N/A
Calypso dive club	0	N/A
Total	497	4425

Two sites were added to the Underwater Malta platform www.underwatermalta.org. These were ORP Kujawiak and Hawker Hurricane. Documentation for the launch of future sites was carried out throughout the diving season. The third set of merchandise t-shirts were designed and produced, and are sold through HM museum shops and the online shop, as well as directly to divers. New visitor numbers for 2024 are 21,000, while the total event count for 2024 is 48,000. This is a significant increase from previous years. The top visiting countries being the United States, United Kingdom, Malta, Poland, Spain and Germany.

Throughout the year, the UCHU organised two fieldwork projects and participated in another project organised by the Maritime Archaeology Programme at the University of Malta and the Defence POW/MIA Accounting Agency, US Government.

May: The aim of this project was to continue sampling sediments around historic wreck sites. This is an ongoing project that is being done in collaboration with Basecamp Research through the collaboration agreement signed in 2023. Permits were obtained from ERA and the Continental Shelf Department. This year sediment sampling focused on extending the sample distance from those wrecks already sampled previously to understand how far reaching the impact of the wreck on the surrounding environment is. The sediment samples are placed in a freezer at Head Office and are then processed by two students from the MA programme, using the mobile eDNA lab that is set up in the Underwater Conservation Lab. Samples were collected from the Schnellboot S-31 and the Ju88 North. Additionally, an instrument to measure light, temperature, dissolved oxygen and current velocity was placed in the vicinity of these two sites. The instrument is on loan from the University of Southern Denmark and is left on site for a week and then recovered (see Figure 1). An additional focus on the Schnellboot wreck was the documentation of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and the sampling of sponges in the vicinity of these UXO. Sponges are filter feeders and great indicators for the health of the surrounding environment. The UCHU wants to understand whether the sponges growing close to UXO differ from sponges that are further away. The results of this study are still pending. The second part of this project revolved around the 3D documentation of the HMS *Olympus* – a British WWII submarine located at a depth of 115m outside the Grand Harbour.

In June, UCHU personnel participated in the UM Salina Bay excavation, which is an underwater training excavation conducted for students sitting for the MA in Global Maritime Archaeology. UCHU personnel assisted in the organisation of the project as well as in diving operations. The UCHU was contracted by the DPAA to participate in a project on the Spitfire off the coast of Qala, Gozo, in July. The Spitfire is an American aircraft from the Second World War and is under HM management. The site was closed to the diving public for the duration of the project and re-opened after completion.

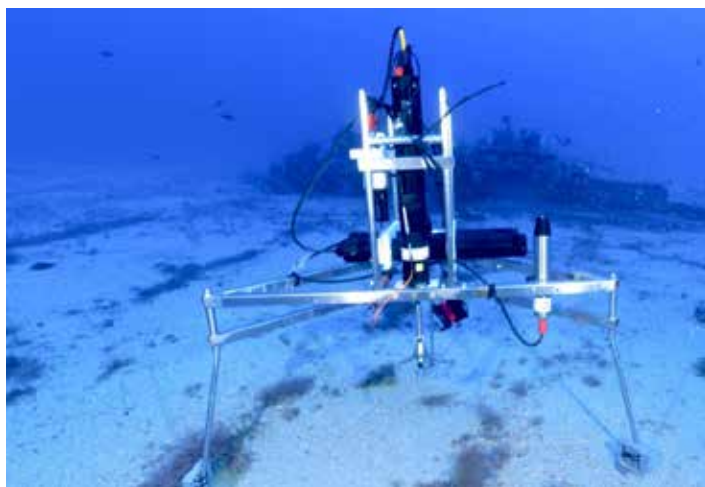


Figure 1: Instrument being lowered to the seabed and on the seabed close to the Ju88 North wreck

In September, the deeper waters at the base of the Xlendi reef were explored. The intention was to understand whether cultural material spreads from the base of the reef all the way to the outer limits of the Xlendi Underwater Archaeological Park. However due to unforeseen bad weather, this project had to be called off after only five dives.



Figure 2:
Participants
learning how
to record sites
underwater in
the context of
heritage crime

The Dive into History 360 initiative involves a 15-minute presentation on maritime archaeology and underwater cultural heritage in Malta, followed by the 360-experience. The UCHU has hosted several events, totally 5,521 individuals experiencing Malta's underwater cultural heritage. This includes several events overseas: 1) Boot fair in Dusseldorf in January as part of the MTA stand and 2) the UCHU stand at Baltictech diving conference in Gdynia, Poland in November.

Objects from the 2024 Salina Bay excavation were transferred to the Underwater Conservation Lab, while the GIS database on shipwrecks is actively being populated. To-date approximately 200 sites have been added to the database.

In March, the OSCE organised a workshop on terrestrial heritage crime in collaboration with Heritage Malta. This was followed by a workshop on underwater heritage crime in October. This workshop was held at the office premises of UCHU and included hands-on practical diving operations (see Figure 2). In April, the NATO sponsored workshop on dumped munitions was organised at the Malta Maritime Museum. This event saw over 100 individuals travel to Malta for a week. Several presentations on the Xlendi Underwater Archaeological Park as part of outreach for the Park were held onboard the Ponant luxury cruise-ships. This includes the presentation of artefacts and the dive into history 360 experience (see Figure 8). A two-day training workshop for MTA personnel was also organised by UCHU. Presentations on the management of UCH in Malta, Maltese traditional boats and the Xlendi park were held, followed by the Dive into History 360 experience.

UCHU personnel also participated in several workshops and events overseas. Two workshops on Potentially Polluting Wrecks were held in London and Helsinki. The third workshop will be held in Malta in March 2025. A two-day conference on the same subject was held in Tallinn, Estonia in October,

during which UCHU presented the work being done in Malta. Two UNESCO round table discussions were held in Madrid, Spain, and Ravello, Italy respectively and were attended by Prof. Timmy Gambin on behalf of Malta, while the Dghajsa tal-Latini project was presented at ISBSA in Naples, Italy.

Regular patrols were carried out at sea at HM underwater sites to ensure that no illegal diving or fishing activities are taking place. Patrols are also carried out during permitted dives to ensure that divers are complying with terms and conditions. The UCHU is currently planning drone courses to add offshore drone patrols to site monitoring and protection.

Throughout 2024, the UCHU were heavily involved in the design of the new cheetah marine research vessel. Two trips were organised to the factory in Portugal and the vessel was delivered to Malta in early September. After several weeks in the boatyard to install elements such as the diver lift, the Furbana is now in the water and actively being used.

In June, the mobile information kiosk was delivered from Poland. Together with the design and branding department, a wrapping design was conceptualised and installed, both internally and externally (see Figure 3). The kiosk was fitted with a TV monitor, chairs and tables, and was used for the first time at Science in the City in Valletta, where 1,000 individuals visited over the two-day event. The plan is to place the kiosk at 10 coastal locations around Malta and two in Gozo. The kiosk will be placed in a prominent location over the weekend in the evening.



Figure 3: Mobile kiosk

Work to populate the Malta Ship Graffiti Project website continued. This involves visiting churches, chapels and bastions around Malta and Gozo to investigate the presence of graffiti and record these to upload on the website. The online platform also has the capacity to allow the public to report their own discoveries, 14 of which were received, and with the permission of the person submitting the report, these will gradually be

recorded and uploaded. In total, 52 galleries with 82 recorded locations are available on www.maltashipgraffiti.org – an average of two galleries a month are being uploaded.

UCHU personnel continued work on Maltese Traditional boats through the traditional boat scheme and the *Restawr ta' Qoxra tal-Baħar* project.

An exhibition on underwater cultural heritage was set up on the upper floor of the Malta National Aquarium. Artefacts related to underwater from the reserve collection were chosen to be exhibited (see Figure 4). These include: an anchor stock, various unprovenanced partial amphorae, a flat-bottomed amphora, and a gin bottle and glass bottle recovered from Lazaretto wharf (from the National Museum of Archaeology); a grapnel anchor and partial amphora (from the Malta Maritime Museum); a large amphora recovered off the coast of Gozo; portholes from a 20th century wreck (UCHU). Apart from the physical objects, the UCHU worked closely with the Aquarium to design information panels on the ecology of shipwrecks as well as the location of historic wrecks around the Maltese Islands (see Figure 5). Audiovisual content was also provided (see Figure 6). A training session was held with Aquarium staff to provide informational support on the various exhibits.



Figure 4: Various artefacts on display at the Aquarium



Figure 5: Information panel on the ecology of shipwrecks



Figure 6: AV content, including screens highlighting HM sites on land and underwater as well as the purpose-built hologram machine showing 3D models of underwater sites and artefacts

The memorial to HMS *Urge* was inaugurated in 2022, and in October, two additional memorials to HMS *Olympus* and HMS *Upholder* were inaugurated (see Figure 7). These three memorials now form the Submariner's walkway that was officially unveiled by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh on 8 October (see Figure 8).



Figure 7: New memorials being installed at Fort St Elmo



Figure 8: Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh unveiling the monument to HMS *Olympus*

With regards to the Domestic Huts project envisaged for the **Ġgantija Archaeological Park**, it was established that further research is required on the archaeological evidence that has emerged from local excavations of Neolithic domestic huts, especially evidence related to the building fabric. This is needed to inform subsequent decisions on the construction process of the interpretive models. During the first quarter of the year, a document was compiled, detailing specific information from domestic sites in Gozo about foundations, floors, walls and roofs. Following this, a decision was taken to commit to authenticity in the choice of materials for reconstruction as much as possible, nonetheless being fully aware that this poses significant challenges. Due to lack of experience for this kind of project within a local scenario, external expertise was sought, primarily to guide the construction process. After a careful selection, contact was made with a UK-based company specialising in historical reconstructions. An introductory meeting was held in July to discuss the project's scope, objectives and architectural considerations. A detailed quote was submitted for the team's consideration in due course. Plans are for the external expert to visit Gozo early next year to be able to present his proposals for the construction of the interpretive huts.

In relation to the same project, in May, curatorial staff attended a public lecture organised by the Malta Archaeological Society entitled 'Archaeology of earthen architecture in the western Mediterranean, with particular regard to southern France'. This lecture provided interesting insights into the various properties and techniques associated with raw earth buildings, including mudbrick. Following this, the mudbrick samples recovered from the 1987 excavations of the Ghajnsielem Road site were located in the Gozo reserve collection. An internal discussion for scientific analysis on these mudbrick remains ensued and XRF analysis was carried out in-house in August. Further tests are planned for 2025.

In February a programme of works was established for conservation work required at Ġgantija. In March, conservators carried out conservation interventions within the inner apses of Ġgantija North, addressing issues present in several megaliths, including fractures and alveolarization. Works resumed in May. These consisted of the application of hydraulic lime-based mixes to solidify fractures and slow down the process of alveolarization. Conservators were assisted by trained personnel from the Gozo Manufacture & Upkeep unit. On 11 October, a cluster of small rubble stones collapsed within Ġgantija South, in the gap between the trilithon niche arrangement and the megalithic inner wall. The collapse was reported to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and a method statement was prepared. Upon approval, the conservation-restoration intervention was carried out a few days later.

Two visits to the reserve collection at the National Museum of Archaeology were organised during January and February, shortlisting prehistoric material for the Gozo Museum and to complement the present display at Ġgantija. Over 50 artefacts and pottery sherds were selected, and these were transferred to Gozo in March. With regards to improvements needed in the display in the Ġgantija Interpretation Centre, 33 fragments belonging to a stone statue from the Xaghra Circle were 3D-scanned to help reconstruct the statue in a better way and create a digital interpretive tool to accompany the display of the fragmented statue itself. The draft audio-guide text for Ġgantija was revised during summer and circulated for feedback. Translations of the text and actual implementation are planned for 2025.

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Preparatory work for the installation of a sandpit in the Ġgantija olive grove was ongoing throughout the year. This project is aimed at improving the visitor experience of young audiences at Ġgantija by creating a hands-on mock excavation. The process included discussions onsite with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, preparation of drawings for related permits, removal of soil at the earmarked site and procurement of supplies for actual implementation. In parallel, some artefacts from the Ġgantija display were 3D-scanned to produce replicas in resin to be buried in the sandpit.

In February, the **Gozo Museum** curatorial team was assisted by UCHU in the classification of the classical amphorae (according to type, date and geography) retrieved from underwater in Gozo. This helped inform the proposed display of maritime trade in the future Gozo Museum. A revised illustrated brief was forwarded to Studio Adrien Gardère in April, for the display to be revised. The proposed display for Gallery 6 of the Gozo Museum needed revisions because of a change in the physical layout of this gallery space. The interpretive approach was discussed further with the curatorial core team and an illustrated design brief was prepared for Studio Adrien Gardère to be able to provide 3D renders. The French team presented the display revisions in September. Further feedback was provided by HM. Research by the curatorial team during the current year included updates to the prehistoric material to be displayed in the Clay Column and preparation of interpretation for some of the galleries.

In April, members from the curatorial team attended a public lecture delivered by Charles Dalli, history lecturer at the University of Malta. The lecture was entitled 'Raiders and Rebels in Medieval Gozo' and provided insights into acts of rebellion in 14th and 15th-century Gozo, as well as raiders that contributed to a pattern of peril and instability that threatened the island's social continuity.

A significant interpretation-conservation project related to the Gozo Museum is the reconstruction and display of a large ceremonial stone bowl from the Xagħra Circle hypogeum. The fragments of the bowl started to be identified and assembled in 2018. This exercise was resumed in March. All identifiable pieces were retrieved from the Ġgantija Finds Hut and labelled according to the

numbering system established in 1994 during excavations. The next step is 3D scanning of all fragments to assist in the reconstruction process of this large bowl which is over 1m in diameter. While identifying the large stone bowl fragments, the Finds Hut was cleaned and reorganised. The exercise included the compilation of an updated inventory of all the crates that are currently in storage.

Following the acquisition of a collection of ethnographic items from the Gharb Folklore Museum (now closed) last year, the owner of the collection was interviewed about specific artefacts, to gain as much information as possible about provenance, manufacture and function of the objects.

A few items were added to the permanent display at the **Gran Castello Historic House** to improve the visitor experience. These included replicas of a goldfinch and a greenfinch in the wicker cages in the servant's quarters, artificial plants, as well as some tailor-made ceramic lamps. Searches in local auction houses and antique dealer shops led to the purchase of two 18th-century wrought-iron bed frames, which will eventually be used to embellish the reconstructed bedrooms. A replica of an 18th-century refectory-style dining table was manufactured in-house. The open displays in this historic house museum were cleaned regularly.

Reorganisation works were carried out in the two small storage spaces at the Gran Castello Historic House which contain part of the ethnographic reserve collection. Basic cleaning and dusting of artefacts was carried out, together with labelling where this was absent. Wherever possible, artefacts were reorganised according to categories. They were placed in plastic crates, disposing of all cardboard boxes which are often targeted by pests. The respective inventories were updated accordingly following movement of artefacts. New shelving was installed in one of these stores at the end of summer. The inventory of the Gozo textile reserve collection was also updated. The audio-guide script for the Gran Castello Historic House was finalised in May. It was passed on to a local service provider who will provide translations and recordings. This is envisaged to be implemented in 2025.

The Integrated Pest Management programme was ongoing at the Gran Castello Historic House throughout the year. Captured insects were identified and recommendations for treatment followed. An onsite visit was held in December to discuss a way forward regarding environmental data collection, pest management and preventive conservation measures.

Shelving was added in two off-site stores. In one of these, heavy-duty shelving was installed to be able to organise better the bulky stone artefacts in storage. The small store at the **Gozo Nature Museum** was dismantled during June. The entire reserve collection was reorganised in plastic crates, throwing out all cardboard boxes. All specimen in the reserve collection which are not related to Gozo will be transferred to the National Museum of Natural History.

Photography of collections in preparation for the Collections Management System CMS ensued. The ornithological and mineral collections at the Gozo Nature Museum were photographed. At Ta' Kola Windmill, photography of the tools collection in the miller's workshop took place during summer. Approximately 170 tools were photographed. From the ethnographic collection, several donated items were photographed, as well as approximately 40 artefacts currently in storage. The amphorae on display in the Xlendi Room at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology were re-photographed for better quality pictures.

As part of the preparatory work for the launch of the CMS, the inventory of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology started being updated. This includes assigning each artefact to a category or class, checking all metadata and updating data relating to excavation, publications and references. Approximately 100 artefacts from this collection had to be re-photographed for better quality photos. A three-day workshop was organised in Gozo between the curatorial team and CMS officials. Migration of metadata for the collection of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology was completed in August. Staff was trained to use The Museum System (TMS), edit and upload new data.

The **Old Prison** features as one of HM's Dark Tourism sites. In April, a script was reviewed by the curatorial team to serve as a promotional tool for these Dark Tourism sites. On 15 June, a PhD candidate in Anthropology at Syracuse University, Alexander W. Anthony, pursuing research on the penal heritage of the Central Mediterranean, scanned all six prison cells at the Old Prison, as well as the courtyard and corridors. He used Terrestrial Laser Scanning and photogrammetry. 3D models of the cells will be created from the 3D scans. This research material will be made available to HM and can be used in interpretive displays for the public, as well as to monitor the degradation of the prison complex over the years. Some vandal scratches were noticed on the back corridor wall of the Old Prison on 28 August. An intervention was carried out soon after to minimise the visibility of these scratches.

At **Ta' Kola Windmill** cleaning of open displays took place regularly by curatorial staff, assisted by three MCAST apprentices until June. The kitchen display of foodstuffs was upgraded with some items including dried Maltese bread and dried pasta. The old inventory cards were scanned to have a digital back-up. Several tools that had been attached directly to the walls with iron nails for many years were carefully dismantled for photography. In the process, they were cleaned lightly and reattached with stainless steel nails and nylon thread. Full conservation treatment will be planned at a later stage as this involves setting up a dedicated conservation area onsite. Wood treatment was given to some tools as a preventive measure against insect attack.

Several development applications within the buffer zone of Ġgantija, the Xaghra Circle and Ta' Kola Windmill were reviewed. Feedback was submitted to the Superintendence whenever HM was officially consulted, while a few representations were submitted to the Planning Authority when necessary. The **Gozo Reference Library** was embellished with 30 new publications, 13 rare out-of-print books and pamphlets, and 27 journals / magazines. Representatives of the Gozo curatorial team attended a number of stakeholder meetings and a conference organised by the Gozo Regional Development Authority. An IPS student reading for a BA in Classics and Archaeology joined the Gozo curatorial team in October. He is assisting in collections management of the archaeological collections and in data input on the TMS, among others.

Banking upon its unique historic value, the **Inquisitor's Palace** has recently increasingly invested in reinstating back as much as possible the lost splendors of this early modern powerhouse. This through thorough research into the archives, archaeological investigations and a historic house approach mirroring use and relevance of the spaces that once housed the Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate. Important results were achieved this year, as research on re-instatement of the Inquisitor's own library gained considerable momentum.

The numerous historic inventories, which are currently being studied, speak about several archives and libraries housed within this building. Among these the bibliotheca built along the main staircase in 1733-34 to the designs of baroque architect Romano Carapecchia holds pride of place. Along the years this space housed an outstanding library which probably included the remarkable donation of books made by Monsignor Domenico and Margerita Xiberras – whose library was considered as one of the most important in 18th century Malta. A unique glimpse is presented by a 1777 index which was discovered by Prof. William Zammit and has since been studied by HM.

This index does not only serve as testimony to the 2,199 books ranging from spiritual meditation, to architecture, geometry, literature, grammar, poetry, proverbs, history and dictionaries, among other literary genres, but it is also indicative of the way they were organized – for this library consisted in eight bookcases with seven or eight shelves each. Moreover, a number of historic inventories from the 1730s to the mid-18th century describe the space as having *“le scanzie tutte attaccate al muro senza alcun vacante con I libri descritti nell’inventario nuovamente fatto, che si conserva in un tiratore del tavolino che si trova in mezzo della stanza...”*. With this information in hand, and the dimensions dictated by the physical space, a reinstatement and reconstruction project is possible.

Following an onsite visit in April to an antiques dealer in Italy specializing in apertures, furniture and fireplaces, namely Simone Marro Porte e Camini Antichi of Via Monte Moro 2, Cervasca, Cuneo, Italy, HM secured a set of three mid-18th-century Italian painted and gilt double bookcases with appropriate period sculpture. These bookcases present an ideal opportunity for they are authentic historic pieces, in style to the 18th-century library covering six out of the eight cabinets listed in the 1777 index. The remaining two would need to be replicated in-house according to the measurements of the remaining walls. Following transfer to Malta, along with around 50 17th- and 18th-century books, the bookcases underwent anoxia treatment to reach the Inquisitor’s Palace in August. With the help of the in-house maintenance team the Bibliotheca display was dismantled and cleared to house these bookcases. In the meantime, the sections pertaining to the history of the Inquisition in Malta were re-installed in the upper floor, and the ethnographic displays linked to ‘A Social Portrait of Early 20th-century Malta’ returned in reserve. Parallel to this is an ongoing research project into the 1777 index as explained infra.

Moreover, notable progress was registered in the early 18th-century reconstruction of the Cancellaria when installation was practically finalised in September. This project is earmarked for completion in 2025 when all final touches and interpretation should be in place. This shall bring a drastic improvement to the current visitor experience and is another step forward in the curatorial vision of improving the museum experience with a reinstatement of a historic-house approach in the spirit of the proposal submitted in 2022 – entitled ‘Il Trattarsi Splendidemente – a 15-point proposal for the Inquisitor’s Palace to live up to its name’.

Significant progress was also registered on the historic collections on display. Two 18th-century Cardinal portraits, one of whom portraying Giovanni Francesco Stoppani were secured through an auction in Italy. We also managed to acquire through a local and an Italian auction a soup tureen and an acetoliera in 18th-century Ginori porcelain decorated with the tulipano motif in line with the dinner service recovered through archaeology. These are intended for eventual display in the Inquisitor’s credenza. In part fulfilment of this vision is also conservation work currently underway on the remaining

two (out of three) 18th-century sottospecchi featuring the coat of arms of Inquisitor Ludovico Gualtieri, and an Apostolato set of paintings by Stefano Erardi which was restored this year. Said set was relocated in various museums and public buildings and was secured and brought back together with a lot of hard work and the collaboration of various curatorial sections and public officials in various ministries and entities. These are earmarked for display in the Sala dei Staffieri early in 2025.

Not much progress was registered in archaeology – the other source of information we bank on for the realisation of our interpretive vision. 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 and 2017, and the garden shaft in 2020 were sidelined for this year. This is mainly because Nathaniel Cutajar, who is leading this project, had to divert his focus on the excavation of a historic oven in Auberge d'Aragon among other projects in Valletta. On the other hand, the temporary exhibition 'Fare Convito – the archaeology of banqueting in Hospitaller Malta', which he curated, was set up at the Inquisitor's Palace in April following dismantling from the National Museum of Archaeology.

In fact, 2024 saw the Ethnography section particularly busy with a remarkable number of exhibitions and their respective outreach programmes. Besides 'Fare Convito', which was set in time for the research and familiarisation visit of eminent food historian Professor Massimo Montanari, the first quarter saw us focused on preparatory works for the maltabiennale.art 2024 – the first edition of a contemporary art project spread over various HM sites with the intent of gathering artists from around the world to examine contemporary issues, offering a new way of seeing the island's stunning cultural heritage. The Ethnography Section collaborated for a main pavilion in the Birgu Armoury and a thematic pavilion at the Inquisitor's Palace. Taking place between 13 March and 31 May, the Birgu Armoury played a central role as one of the main venues for one of the four central themes of this first edition, namely that of 'Can You Sea?: The Mediterranean as a Political Body', whereby following a selection process 20 contemporary art projects were shortlisted for display. These included projects by Rosa Barba, Simon Benjamin, Aaron Bezzina, Josian Bonello, Claude Borg, Mariah Borg, Rebecca Mifsud, Sumaya Ben Saad, Tania Bruguera, Teresa Busuttil, Leo Chircop, Joseph Cochran II, Andrea Conte (Andreco), Anne Immelé, Edson Luli, Karyn Olivier, Adrian Paci, Laure Prouvost, Agnes Questionmark, Anna Raimondo, Rethinking Lampedusa Research Group, Zinenb Sedira, Buhlebezwe Siwani and Anthony Spagnol. On the other hand, various areas within the Inquisitor's Palace hosted artworks by various artists under the theme 'Mediterraneo: Mosaico di C(OU)lture' – an art project presenting the study of new forms of balance between man and nature through the metaphor of a mosaic which come together to create a harmonious whole of plurality embracing history and contemporary challenges. This pavilion, supported by Piazza Armerina, featured works by Toni Campo, Danila Mancuso, Chicco Margaroli, Marianna Masciolini, Fernando Miglietta, Nicholas Peall, Domenico Pellegrino, Rossella Pezzino de Geronimo, Michelangelo Pistoletto, Franco Politano, MariaGrazia Pontorno, Giulio Rigoni and Alex Turco.

The curatorial section was also busy with two other exhibitions namely 'Betrayal and Vengeance: The slaves' conspiracy of 1749 through 19 historic drawings' running from 20 September 2024 to 31 March 2025 in the Inquisitor's secondo appartamento on the upper floor, and 'Threads of Faith: Liturgical vestments of the Order of St John' from 11 October 2024 to 31 July 2025 in the costumes display area within the Pannellini Quarters. The former commemorated the 275th anniversary of the failed slaves'

conspiracy of 1749, through the eyes of Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate Paolo Passionei who reports about the conspiracy in 58 news sheets he forwards to the Secretary of State at the Vatican between 1748 and 1751. The exhibition centres around 19 unique illustrations, rendered alive through an immersive audiovisual to offer insights into the political, social, and cultural dynamics of 18th-century Malta. The exhibition also delves into the broader themes of power, diplomacy, treason, and the complex relationships between the West and the East during this period. Historical documents, including contemporary reports, sermon sheets and more recent literature on the subject, provide context and deepen the understanding of the era and the impact that this tragic episode had on collective memory. Running parallel to this exhibition is a successful calendar of outreach events ranging from public lectures to panel discussions on coffee followed by a tasting session.

In line with previous years, this proved to be a positive one for the **Costumes and Textiles collection**. Along with research and on-site meetings linked to 35 accessions between donations and acquisitions, and the various educational and outreach programmes, much of our focus went towards inventory updating and reorganisation of the study collection and the setting up of temporary displays. Parallel to preparations for new temporary displays was the running of outreach initiatives in connection to 'The Maltese Bride, 19th- and 20th-century bridal wear in Malta' (12 October 2023 – 31 July). Among these were various interviews and specialised tours. Worthy of note are talks and memory sharing sessions with five Active Aging communities in the museum and a talk off-site on weddings in the 20th century to the residents at the elderly nursing home Dar l-Annunzjata, Tarxien. These ran parallel with other talks on the National Textiles collection in active ageing centres in Sliema and Pembroke. A half day seminar with seven speakers was also organised on 22 June with the participation of Maria Rosaria Zammit Abouzid, Caroline Tonna, Marquis Nicholas DePiro, Claire Bonavia, Dr Noel Buttigieg, Rachel Grillo and Annamaria Gatt who explored the rich traditions and fashion of Maltese weddings of the 20th century.

For a period of eight weeks between the yearly costumes and textiles exhibition, was the display of the Commonwealth Commemoration Dress donated by Charles and Ron Van Maarschalkerweerd Borg of the fashion label Charles & Ron. The donated dress, designed for the 2017 Commonwealth Fashion Exchange, symbolises the unity and creative prowess of designers across the Commonwealth's 53 countries, and was exhibited at Buckingham Palace, FIT New York and The Royal Ascot before passing on to the national collection. The dress featuring the star-motif Maltese bobbin lace blouse, a beaded floor-length skirt with Maltese doorknocker appliqué, and a hand-tooled leather belt symbolises Charles & Ron's commitment to Maltese heritage and design and was exhibited between 5 August and 30 September as the 'Commonwealth Commemoration Dress'.

Most of our efforts in terms of display were channelled towards 'Threads of Faith: Liturgical Vestments of the Grand Masters' running from 11 October to 31 July 2025. The exhibition focuses on liturgical vestments belonging to the Order of the Knights of St John. These span from chasubles, dalmatics and an altar frontal from the 15th to the 17th century from the National Textiles Collection and Birgu's St Lawrence Collegiate Church, and are displayed in a fitting context to illustrate their importance as symbols of devotion and masterpieces of textile art. The exhibition is accompanied by a 36-page exhibition catalogue, the second in this special series curated by Annamaria Gatt.

Among the collaborations for 2024 was the assistance given to Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti for

the exhibition 'Curious Beauty: An Alternative Costume Exhibition' held at Palazzo Falson between 14 April and 16 June. On 6 August, the dress (consisting of a bodice with no stomacher, and skirt) ETHN/F/1176i-ii was installed at MUŻA, replacing the previous bodice (ETHN/F/151) along 'The Visit' painting by Antoine Favray.

Notable resources were invested in educational and outreach initiatives. Worthy of note are several interviews covering the left-handed *ghenienel* on the *Times of Malta* (*Legacy of a left-hander*, 15 May 2024) and HMTV and others featuring 'Threads of Faith' exhibition on *Malta u lil'Hinn Minnha*, and the National Textiles Collection on *Gimgha b'Gimgha* to be aired in February 2025 on NET Television. Cope session for teachers of VET Fashion (option subject for Year 9 to Year 11 students in secondary schools) was held at National Museum of Natural History on 23 April. This was an interdisciplinary activity with David Cilia's experimentation with fabrics and covered the dyeing of fabrics and wool washing, skirting, carding and spinning. Costumes and textiles also featured in *Il-Malti fl-Istorja* 12 educational sessions. The collection and relevant facilities were made available under guidance to research and educational institutions. This included MCAST first year students following Cultural Heritage skills with tutor Michael Formosa, and level 5 Fashion students for their lecture on 18th-century garments with lecturer Evelyn Baluci. A research agreement was also reached with Tamara Burr from the University of Malta Art and Art History Department in view of her dissertation entitled 'Specimens of Male Dress in Nineteenth-Century Malta: A Stylistic and Comparative Study of Sartorial Currents'. Assistance was also given to the Malta Crafts Foundation who through Erasmus+ programmes welcomed two craft educators –Liisa Piirainen and Aino Helena Arffman from Finland to attend a number of workshops related to Maltese crafts. One of the sessions included a two-hour workshop on basic Maltese bobbin lace stitches on 13 May at MUŻA. Further to this, we also had an intense three-day job shadowing by Daša Česnik from Čipkarska šola Idrija (Idrija Lace School) Slovenia between 14 and 16 May. This focused on the work of the Curator of Costumes and Textiles and was among others exposed to bobbin lace in the collection, current temporary exhibitions and collaborations, education, research and retail. Several textile related donations and acquisitions were accessioned this year (refer to Appendices).

Apart from the routine fortnightly housekeeping of the collection area, this year, priority was given to the ground floor level especially with the cleaning of the large-sized and medium-sized boxes, sorting according to collection and / or theme, and reorganisation to maximise storage space. Momentum was particularly reached in the summer months with the help of the two MCAST student apprentices (Cultural Heritage Skills). In May, former MCAST student apprentices compiled a complete and detailed Integrated Pest Management report for both the Textiles Collection Area and the Display Area.

The updating of the inventory is progressing steadily and is therefore increasingly being earmarked for migration into the collection management system underway. This year's efforts included ongoing updating with the inputting of new data, and photographs that were missing or not good enough. Most of the photos have been edited, renamed, and included in the inventory. This updating will continue in 2025. Parallel to this was the progress registered in the cataloguing of the Maltese Lace Designs at the National Library. The digitisation of designs is complete and the editing and renaming of photo files is in progress.

With regards to **Industrial Heritage**, 2024 has seen several printing machines go up on the

permanent display in the recently refurbished Grand Master's Palace in Valletta. Some of these machines had to be dismantled, cleaned and re-assembled on site. There, they serve to illustrate and interpret one of the Grand Master's Palaces many functions as a state-run printing press. The machines, which are all manually operated are mainly: a Columbian Press and a book binding machine by Fleetworks London, a small table pedal press, a paper guillotine, and a Wharfedale (stop cylinder) printing press machine manufactured by Payne & Sons of Otley, Yorkshire.

Adding to the history of printing in Malta, was the inclusion of numerous screen-printed items donated by Mark and Benjamin Borg to serve as a legacy to their late father Francis Borg, who was a pioneer of the screen-printing technique in Malta. The items vary from tourist-oriented souvenirs and local commemorative items that cover the use of the technique on various materials. Apart from the donation, the brothers also sat for an interview adding further depth to the story behind the donation. With regards to Transport, some of the former traditional route buses have been given mechanical maintenance, cleaned, and re-organized better, making them more easily accessible to whatever is required in the future. This process will continue in the following year on the remaining vehicles in the collection.

The Ethnography Section has seen to the upkeep of the **Church of Our Lady of Pilar**. This included deep cleans, and regular inspections in preparation for rental events. The church was also one of the venues for the maltabiennale.art 2024 main pavilion 'Decolonising Malta: Polyphony is us'. It hosted art projects by Andrea Ferrero (Who shall give us flesh to eat?), and Dew Kim (The Enchanting Offering) in the church vestry, Guadalupe Maravilla (Disease Thrower – Purring Monster with a Mirror on its Back) in the church. Zazzaro Otto exhibited found-footage video art entitled *Perdono* in one of the rooms next to the side-door to the common areas. Progress was also registered with regards to the archaeological investigations in the oven area of the adjacent Auberge d'Aragon.

In line with previous years, the Ethnography section has worked on improving accessibility of our cultural resources - both physically, through an ever-increasing quality experience, and intellectual, mainly through outreach events, educational programmes, social media, and published research.

Research mainly focused on gathering extensive data on the Inquisitor's Palace according to a research programme which has been outlined last year. Progress was also registered on the patentees of this inquisition, since it is believed that this can contribute significantly in the historic-house approach and the intent to instill life back in the Palace. The accounts of the Inquisition's workers represent a crucial yet often overlooked aspect of the Inquisition's history in Malta, and this is why it was decided that the subject should score high in our research agenda. Tangible results were reached this year namely through a lecture in February by Rachel Grillo in the series of *Tahdidiet bil-Malti dwar l-Inkwizizzjoni* entitled "*Għas-servizz tal-Inkwizitur: L-uffiċjali, il-ħaddiema u l-gabellotti*." The primary objective of this lecture was to introduce new figures to the narrative of the Inquisition's history in Malta and an article Sig. Can. Don Guglielmo Rossi (1771-98) librarian to the Inquisitor's Palace which featured on *Tesserae*. Research was also carried out at the parish archives of Birgu where sections related to the Inquisitor's retinue in the *Status Animarum* registers were transcribed and translated. Examining these registers allows us to gain a deeper insight into the residents of the Inquisitor's Palace beyond just the inquisitors. Additionally, several volumes titled *Santo Uffizio Cartolario* which are also located at the parish archives of Birgu were

reviewed. This exercise will extend into 2025.

Furthermore, strides forward were also made on the inquisitorial library research project as a large number of books that once were housed at the Inquisitor's Palace were traced at the National Library in Valletta earlier this year. These books all bear the insignia of the Inquisition and merit further study. It was decided that these should be a priority in our research programme, potentially setting ground for a temporary exhibition in a newly restored and reconstructed bibliotheca earmarked for 2027. So far, 100 books have been analyzed.

The 24 inventories pertaining to the Inquisitor's Palace dating back to the 17th century that were discovered back in 2022 were transcribed by Ms Kealey Kennedy, a student from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. These inventories will be double-checked and will eventually serve as a tool to help the curatorial team in their interpretive vision for the Inquisitor's Palace. Further research was carried out on the civil cases of the patentees of the Roman Inquisition in Malta. A number of proceedings were identified and selected for inclusion in the Cancelleria interpretation. This exercise will also extend into 2025.

Research also included the digitisation of a number of wedding album photographs, most of these were the result of engagement with visitors during the bridalwear exhibition. Further to the Borg brothers, Sunta Muscat the former shop owner who had donated her grocery shop furniture to the national collection in 2020 was also interviewed. More interviews are being planned for 2025.

The section also contributed towards the publishing of:

Rachel Grillo, *The Inquisitor's Librarian: Sig. Can. Don Guglielmo Rossi (1771-1798)*, *Tesserae* (Issue 14 - Autumn 2024), Heritage Malta Publishing, 2024

Kenneth Cassar and Rachel Grillo, *Betrayal and Vengeance: The slaves' conspiracy of 1749 in 19 historical drawings*, Heritage Malta Publishing, 2024

Annmaria Gatt, *Hjut ta' Fidi: Vestwarju Liturgiku tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann - Threads of Faith: Liturgical Vestments of the Order of St John*, Heritage Malta Publishing, 2024

The section managed to secure significant artefacts through purchases and donations. Most remarkable for the history of the Inquisition as already indicated is a pair of 18th-century Cardinal portraits of Lombard derivation. These were bought as unknown cardinals from Lucas Aste in Milan, one was securely identified as Cardinal Giovanni Francesco Stoppani (Inquisitor and Apostolic Delegate between 1731 and 1735) and the other is possibly Giuseppe Alessandro Furietti.

2024 also registered a significant number of donations of ethnographic value. This included wood turning lathe equipment for a wheelwright and wooden cartwheel parts and paraphernalia donated by Mr Bugeja, a framed certificate with attached silver medal for the Malta Preliminary show of 1923, and a British Empire Exhibition 1924 award to Mrs Mary Vella for cotton crochet work donated by Benamina Attard on behalf of Mary Vella. We also secured printing blocks for bottle labels donated by Espedito Cassar and Hal Caprat bottle crates, bottles and labels donated by Daryl Delicata obo Hal Caprat Wine Factory, Żebbuġ. Representative of daily life and its various aspects are other donations including Safari animal themed trump cards from the 1990s donated by Kimberly Cachia, glazed earthenware kitchenalia, stainless steel cutlery and cooking receptacles donated by Geraldine Rizzo, mid-to-late-19th-century furniture pieces donated by Mark Anthony Callus on behalf

of Rosaria Maria Mifsud, Dockyard apprentice documents donated by Lawrence Callus, and voting permission cards, driving licence, sunglasses and brochures donated by Josette Ellul. Angelo Briffa also made a large donation consisting of passports, personal cards, licences and certificates, rent books, holy cards, kitchenalia, postcards, paraffin glass lamps, and a 1970s tombola board among others. Following our work with George Zahra on carnival, we were approached by Joseph Farrugia and his father George Farrugia both active in Carnival, the latter for over fifty years. They donated several related items including certificates, commemorative plaques and trophies, and sketches to produce grotesque masks. Of interest is a donation of merchandise related to Xummiemu - Malta's favourite environmental mascot, following a comeback campaign launched in November 2023. These were donated by the Cleansing and Maintenance Division.

Other acquisitions with Maltese provenance include a Wembley Ice-Cream poster of circa 1957, a 1940s Singer Cordwainer's sewing machine, a 1920s six-piece 'Maltese Art Nouveau' bedroom circa 1920s, probably manufactured in Birgu by 'Naru'. Of note from local auctions are a 17th-century ivory group representing the Virgin and Child with Saint Sebastian and Saint Roch and library items from Dr Albert Ganado's collection. These included 58 issues of the *Bibliotechina dei Ragazzi - Fiabe e leggende Maltesi*, the four volumes of the Maltese Folklore Review from 1962 to 1973, and a manuscript Inquisitorial *Cerimoniale* - our other highlight when it comes to accessions linked to the Inquisitor and Palace history. Of note among the online purchases are 12 engravings after Bernard Picart (1673-1733), depicting religious customs as practiced by Roman Catholics, 18th-Century France, and a 1924-British Empire Exhibition Railway Map and site plan. We also managed to secure a remarkable collection of 18th-century glassware, silver tableware, and fine reproduction chairs.

2024 also registered several accessions for the textile collection. Further to entries already mentioned, one must note the donation of a bowler hat, a top hat and a feather weight top by Geraldine Rizzo, a wedding invite, souvenir banners and pennants and a T-shirt all screen printed by FranzArt Malta, donated by Benjamin Borg and Mark Borg. We also received a mid-20th-century Holy communion dress, handkerchiefs and boy's arm bow, a 1970s wedding dress, and a 1930s Chareston fan with blue feathers donated by Alberta Camilleri, and a 1936 cream colour wedding dress by Vanessa Causon. Of note are a set of anthropomorphic soft/plush toys distributed with Safari brand juices in the early 2000s donated by Kimberley Cachia.

A significant donation was made by Dr Albert Friggieri and Mrs Catherine Bertucat Friggieri. This consisted in a Maltese lace baby bib and baby collar, and over 85 books and two DVDs linked to textile and lace history. The latter shall be deposited in the curatorial library. Among the acquisitions made for the national textile collection are a 19th-century black silk Maltese bobbin lace shawl, and a late 19th/early 20th-century ecru silk Maltese bobbin lace lappet.

The Ethnography section held a very busy outreach calendar. Of note is the consolidation of the established programme and the addition of new events, including a programme of cookalong sessions of typical food targeting both young and adult participation. These sessions rich in ethnographic value were presented in three different programmes as follows:

Cooking adventures from past to present - Cooking course (3 sessions)

A journey through tradition and flavour - Evening cook along session - Qassatat (2 sessions)

Flavours of Malta and Gozo: Exploring Maltese culinary heritage (20 sessions).

Much of the work ongoing at the **Grand Master's Palace** inevitably also concerned the collection and displays in various ways. The *Uccelliera* was used on several occasions by the President of Malta, notably for the signing of official documents. The portraits of the Presidents were re-arranged in the adjacent area to the *Uccelliera* flanking the Bitha tal-Gizimina.

The magnificent structure, mechanism, trains, jacks and cymbals of the Pinto clock were given due attention. The masonry structure's façade was tackled during 2023 save the very roof over the room hosting the clock mechanism. Work on this roof commenced this year and will be concluded early next year. The masonry and iron beam structure supporting the cymbals, jacks and train movements was tackled this year, practically a complete demolition of the British period structure. Since the decision was reached to have an exposed skeletal train mechanism, void of protection as originally conceived in the 1740s, the British period wooden hut covering the train mechanism was also removed. The extremely battered Order's period wooden supporting structure was copied to the exact dimensions in galvanized steel to withstand the various climatic conditions. The original battered wooden structure was consolidated in its entirety and the components kept in a room inside the clock turret complete with all the original Order's period iron and bronze train and supports attached to it, which were likewise copied for the new galvanized structure. In future, those responsible can thus have access to the original materials composing this complex structure and can study it. Next year, these components will be re-assembled as one structure inside this room. Meanwhile, the contracted restorer Roberto Pasqualato restored the bronze, brass, iron and wooden jacks and was also responsible for the copying of the new metal galvanized structure and plinth. The new galvanized structure and plinth, parts of the train, the jacks and the cymbals were hoisted into place in September. Works will continue next year.

The Grand Master's summer bedroom was totally clad in a green silk and cotton damask supplied by Camilleri Paris Mode of Rabat and new mahogany plinths installed. Most of the jams were restored. The two floor areas, the alcove's maiolica floor (the only remaining in-situ maiolica floor in the palace), and the rest of the bedroom floor in Maltese limestone, part of which is painted black, were also restored. An 18th-century Maltese chandelier was hanged, as were ten 17th/18th-century paintings, including two by Ribera. A number of antique furniture pieces were also installed, most donated by Paul Zammit in 2018.

The main chapel was clad in a silk damask from the above-mentioned supplier. The mid-18th-century altar *scanello* donated by Mr Zammit was conserved and the rest of the altar fabricated by HM craftsmen. All painted and gilt as the *scanello*. A pair of 17th-century biblical tapestries and a suite of armchair and chairs donated by Mr Zammit were also installed. The tapestries will also be sent to De Witt in Belgium for restoration early next year, while the early 18th-century maiolica floor will be reassessed in view to commission a master maiolica artisan to produce the missing components for eventual re-laying.

The floor of the Cabinet of Curiosities was uplifted to accommodate services and re-laid in November. Five Georgian libraries/display cases were refurbished and will serve as the cabinet of curiosities. A painting commemorating the presentation of a Yucca plant to Grand Master de Rohan was hung in this room. The iron chandelier was re-painted. A small passage leading to this room will accommodate

three paintings from MUŻA's reserve collection and a French armoire donated by Mr Zammit. The mural works in three areas of the Chaplain's room will be ready by January next year. Due to the painted wall decoration, only two coffers will be displayed in this room, one of which was donated by Mr Zammit. A set of six French Empire appliques will be installed after the mural works are concluded.

The walls of the newly fashioned French Room were once decorated, however it was decided to cover them since more damage was being done in the attempt to uncover three decorative schemes on the said walls. The chosen damask pattern is in the French Empire style, contrary to the Baroque patterns usually found around the palace. The wooden fake ceiling was also cleaned of excessive paint coats and consolidated. A few traces of the original decorative scheme were found through which the main divisions could be repainted. Five main areas were left in a pale sky blue as found in these spaces, but no attempts were made to include further decorations. Unfortunately, the last description of this room by Blanche Lintorn Simmons in 1888 documents that this ceiling was decorated with a mythological theme, of which no strong traces were found during the lengthy restoration which commenced in 2022 and concluded in early December. An 18th-century Maltese chandelier was hanged. The historical vicissitudes of France, Malta and England in the last quarter of the 18th century and the first quarter of the 19th century are explained here.

The two large St Michael and St George paintings were, with some intrigue and suspense, brought over to this room, leaving just an inch to spare. Their frames were hoisted up by crane and brought inside through the window. A mock fireplace like the one in the room was crafted so that these could support the weight of said frames and paintings. This was the conclusion of years of preparation, which commenced in 2019 when the room was chosen to host the said Order. Actual sized mock frames and painting support were fabricated in-house and moved around the palace corridors and through doorways simulating the move originating from where the paintings were stored. Several portraits of British and Maltese Knights of the Order were also hanged on the walls. An early 19th-century bronze Empire chandelier donated by Mr Zammit was restored and hanged, and four torchiers also donated by Mr Zammit were installed, as were 39 chairs belonging to this Order. A decorative wooden antique arch salvaged years ago from a Sliema house was adapted to surround the window and form a backdrop for the Grand Master's chair. Further items to be displayed include the uniform with full regalia of the last Governor of Malta, Sir Maurice Dorman, a Knight of this Order.

A token display about the Maltese Parliamentary history was deemed necessary pending the restoration of the former Auberge d'Italie ground floor area which will host this important institution as well as former institutions such as the Legislative Assembly. The token display features a sample of the Parliament furnishings be those once at the Tapestry Room and from the Armoury. A marble tablet was also installed listing the Speakers of the House. Two large monitors were installed to explain the history of the Maltese Parliament.

Several stretches of the marble flooring at the Office of the President were repaired. The walls were clad with false walls which were lined with printed canvas simulating wallpaper, as was the soffit. A number of antique portraits depicting Knights of the Order of St John were hung on the walls. A large early 18th-century ante porta structure was purchased from Cuneo, Italy to be installed in the Perellos room leading to the bed chamber, now styled as a small meeting room. The discovery of this rare wooden item, with ornate sculpture, mouldings, gilt decoration, leaded glass etc. and having the

exact required proportions, was a miracle to find. HM craftsmen exposed the overpainted wooden parts to natural finish, restored the gildings, mouldings and lead glass, and ordered new parts from Venice. This structure will be installed in early 2025.

As in recent years, work continued on the shifting of a number of paintings and furniture pieces. The former National War Museum storage was crucial to store certain items. Several paintings were restored and others commenced. One of the 19 lunette paintings depicting the naval exploits of the Order of St John was partly re-lined and eventually re-hanged as well. Another two 18th-century tent and bag chandeliers were transferred back from San Anton Palace. Two Maria Theresa chandeliers were restored and set up at San Anton Palace in their stead. These two tent and bag chandeliers were taken for restoration. Another Maria Theresa Chandelier was ordered by the new President for a passage. A number of important items were acquired. Of particular note were a number of silver artefacts mainly flatware and a silver library oil lamp from the estate of the renowned Dr Jimmy Farrugia, a silver tabernacle door purchased from France for the chapel's altar, and lace trim for the altar's altar. A set of doors were purchased from Cuneo Italy so that a large armoire could be constructed to conceal a group of AC units in the Grand Master's bedroom. This is to be installed in February 2025.

On 4 April, the very day of the swearing in ceremony at the Palace of the new President of Malta Dr Miriam Spiteri Debono, three maiolica vases and a clock were found to be missing. This was immediately reported to the Police. Eventually the perpetrator and accomplice were apprehended and just one of the vases remains unaccounted for which fortunately happens to be of 20th-century manufacture and of no significant historical importance/value. The court case ensues. Moreover, on three occasions, graffiti were sprayed on the walls and doors of the palace. In October, a contractor's workman sprayed on the recently restored wall of the main turret on the roof. This was addressed immediately. Another contracted workman, sprayed with transparent furniture polish on several areas of the main elliptical staircase including on the marble cladding. He was apprehended and a court case is ongoing. Two outside doors painted green were also sprayed with graffiti by an unknown individual. These were also immediately tended to.

The two Presidents of Malta (outgoing and incoming) visited the Palace several times to observe ongoing works. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola was welcomed at the Palace on 28 March, while the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh visited on 7 October.

In its first year of operation since its relocation from the former stables to the original 17th-century Armoury Hall, the public's reaction to the **Palace Armoury** has been largely positive and of great encouragement. Nevertheless, there are a number of snags that are still pending.

Another major pending project completed this year was the installation of 150 fiberglass half-armour replicas on the topmost cornice of the armoury hall, to fill up this stretch of walls in a visually consistent manner with a description of the armoury as it was during the Order's period. As such armour would be installed in a hard to access place at the very top of the armoury hall, it was decided to opt for replicas rather than authentic armours, to mitigate both the high risk of damage to the artefacts, as well as the frequency of maintenance that would be required had authentic armour been used.

The long-term conservation plan of the collection is still ongoing. The items conserved this year include three wooden shields decorated with the emblem of a langue of the Order of St John, seven decorated pauldrons and six decorated breastplates. Multiple preparations have been ongoing in view of the introduction of the Collections Management System, namely the transcribing electronic Excel based inventory onto inventory cards, and discussions to define a holistic and unified system of metadata fields and inventorying protocols to be applied once the system is rolled out.

For the past years, the curatorial team in collaboration with the Maltese ambassador to Japan, has also been working on the conservation of two Samurai armour sets. The two armours were sent to a Japanese conservation workshop, with the conservation works now being at an advanced stage. Once the works are completed, the armours will be exhibited at the Osaka Expo in June 2025 before returning to Malta. Research has also been conducted on the historical context of how these Samurai armour came to Malta for a documentary being produced in Japan.

Following the rehabilitation and relocation of the Palace Armoury back to its original hall, it has been deemed appropriate to reunite the collection of arms and armour which was dispersed over the years. In accordance with this principle, artefacts from the Palace Armoury collection loaned to other HM museums are being gradually returned. This process started with the collection of Great Siege Hospitaller and Ottoman Armour at the National War Museum. So as not to disrupt the narrative or diminish the collection of the said museum in any way, other equivalent artefacts have been acquired as substitutes. Other items have been purchased for the Armoury collection and library as listed in Appendix V.

We also believe that it is now high time to address the spoliation the Palace Armoury during the 19th century, resulting in a much-diminished national collection and a hindrance to the enthusiast and academic who currently cannot appreciate or study these armours in their original configuration. Possible avenues potentially leading to the restitution of cultural heritage related to the Palace Armoury have started being investigated. A research project has commenced intended to identify a number of historic armours of high cultural value to the Maltese nation which have been removed from their rightful home as a direct consequence of the nation's colonial experience. Further, this research seeks to establish the historical context surrounding the initial acquisition of these armours by members of the Order of St John, their conservation by the Order within their main armoury as items of cultural importance after their decommissioning, and to establish those events of historical note with which these armours are associated. Finally, this research project is also meant to investigate how and when these artefacts left the Maltese Islands. The findings seek to inform and contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the return of cultural heritage artefacts. Indeed, HM officials and their counterparts from British institutions have already held a number of meetings to discuss this matter. This has resulted in a working draft Memorandum of Understanding intending to establish a general direction for the advancement of this endeavour.

The curatorial team has also been engaged with providing curated tours of the Grand Master's Palace and Armoury to several important visitors, including the President of the European Parliament, a delegation headed by the Italian Minister for Justice, and members of the European Federation of Press Clubs. Guided tours and/or access to the collection was also provided to various researchers.

The curatorial team was also engaged on a visit abroad to attend two conferences and an additional two meetings held with two different institutions which have ties with the Grand Master's Palace and Armoury. The first was a day-long conference organized by the Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers and the Arms and Armour Society, titled 'Companies, Craft and Conflicts', was held on 28 September at Armourers Hall, London. The second conference ran from 29 September to 4 October, and was organized by ICOMAM in collaboration with the National Army Museum and the Royal Armouries. The first three days of the conference were held at the National Army Museum, while the following three days featured a post-conference study tour which was spread across various museums and sites across England. This conference focused on the theme of 'Science, Technology and the Military', and how museums and collections of arms and military heritage are the primary sites through which public audiences engage with these rich and complex stories. Prior to attending such events, the curators published an article in this year's ICOMAM journal regarding the rehabilitation project of the Armoury, presenting an overview of the arms and armour collection, and the logistical, museological, and conservation challenges and considerations encountered throughout this project.

The main focus of the **Malta Maritime Museum** this year was the launch of the 'An Island at the Crossroads' exhibition. This involved developing themes, selecting artefacts, and preparing metadata and catalogue entries. The exhibition can be considered as a framework for the future museum narrative. The exhibition was also accompanied by a specific education programme, two dedicated TV series, and one series on national radio, apart from many other initiatives. The number of visitors was impressive when compared to previous years, the public events were as successful, and the community engagement is now on a level that was previously unattainable. All this was augmented by the impact and outreach of Taste History, which created a special menu dedicated to the museum narrative. The menu, entitled *Artefact to Table*, was a modern twist of how HM can deliver its message through a multisensory experience, particularly through food and taste. The exhibition also welcomed several important visitors, starting off with President Emeritus Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, the brainchild behind the setting up of the museum in the late 80s, and His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh in October. Moreover, throughout the year, in collaboration with Taste History, the museum's outreach programme was also delivered beyond Maltese shores to Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Shanghai. The constant drive to bridge and find connections with the museum's narrative is proving successful.

With respect to the models' workshop, key items underwent restoration, including intensive work on the 18th-century yard model of a frigate and the dockyard apprentice's catamaran model. This was an important exercise during which previous restoration attempts by the late Joseph Muscat were scientifically re-traced. This was mainly done with the frigate model which had had interventions in the early 2000s that were causing problems to its prows. Minor restoration and cleaning were also carried out on models such as the SS *Ohio*, the exploding model of an 18th-century ship of the line, various mechanical engineer models and the architectural typographical model of the 1865 docks proposal. The collection of models was expanded through the addition of four significant models: the submarine HMS *Olympus* (from England), the USAF Liberator Bomber replica of an underwater wreck discovered recently (donated by IPMS Malta), a skeletal fuselage replica of N5520 Gloster Sea Gladiator (from Greece), and the destroyer HMS *Oslow* (purchased at auction). Furthermore, in April the 'Minjatura' scale model exhibition, coordinated with IPMS Malta, became a standout cultural

event. For the first time, it included an international-level competition, attracting local and foreign participants. This event has solidified its status as a premier showcase for model-making enthusiasts. It also served as an outreach activity, attracting hundreds of visitors to explore the scale model expo and take the opportunity to view the museum's current exhibition. On the other hand, the salient work of the two boat restorers was their continued restoration of the *Dghajsa tal-Latini* and the consolidation of a temporary workshop and work on smaller wooden artefacts. They were essential in preparing the frame of a traditional *firilla*, considered to be the oldest full-sized boat in the national collection, while also consolidating the frame of a sailing *kajjik*.

Despite all the positives, the year was also marred by the short-lived theft of two gold medals from the museum display: a dark day in the story of the museum which was saved by the timely intervention of museum staff on duty and the assistance of the Malta Police Force. The museum on the day was hosting an educational activity, where around 250 students accompanied by their teachers and event organisers made use of the museum space from 9:30am till 12:45pm. At around 9:00am, an unidentified man walked in with a class of students claiming he was an education staff member tasked to deliver some papers to the teachers inside. At around 10:00am the man left the building. At around 1:50pm the security officer on duty found, during his routine checks, two blockade gold medals missing, and their showcase broken into. He immediately called the senior curator to report the incident. The senior curator immediately gave the order to lock down the museum. Within 10 minutes, a report was filed at the Bormla Police Station. In the meantime, the chief operations officer and security manager were informed and arrived on site. With the help of the police officers on duty, all remaining visitors in the museum were checked and the analysis of that day's CCTV footage commenced. Within minutes, the security cameras proved their worth and the perpetrator was recognised by both the staff on duty and by the police. The police forensics unit visited the crime scene around 4:30pm while the search for the thief was underway. Shortly afterwards the perpetrator, who was known to the police, was arrested and the medals found in his possession. The medals were returned the next day to the senior curator, who was present at court during the compiling of evidence against the perpetrator.

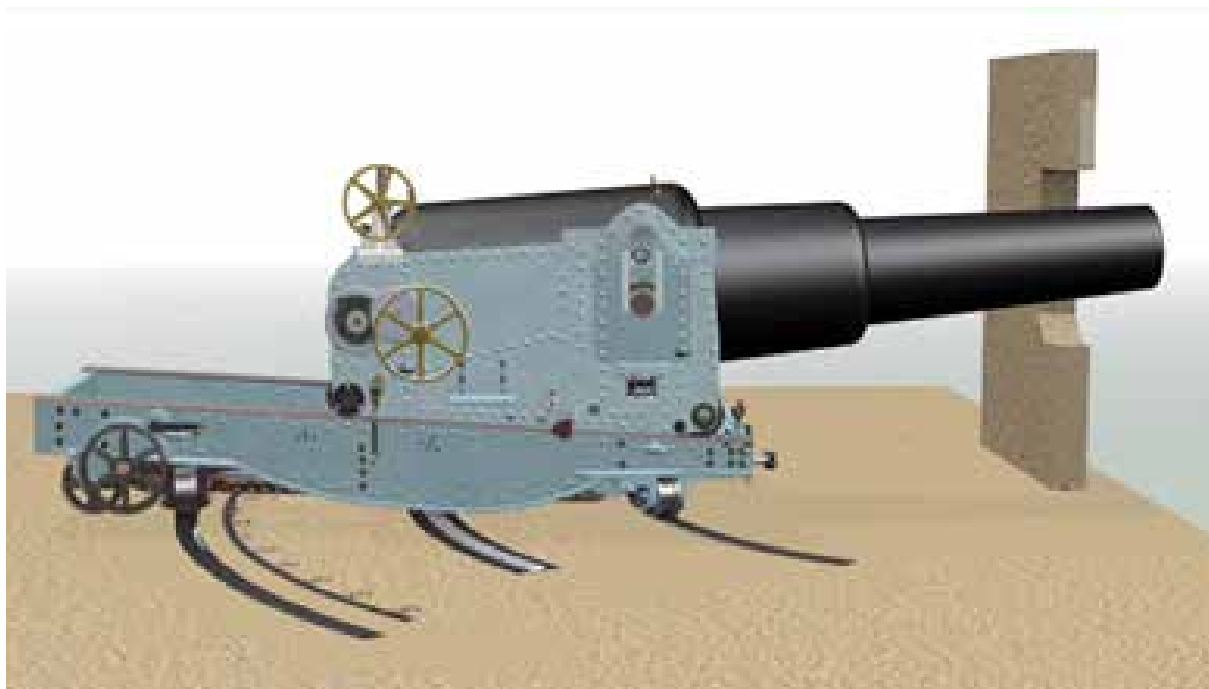
The main aim of the Collections Management System (CMS) with respect to the museum was to upload catalogue records, and thus testing and setting up the back-end of the system; and present these records on the eMuseum, and thus test and set up the front-end of the system. In addition, catalogue records of objects that were digitised in previous years were also migrated into the CMS. This was approached by object type, such as badges and paintings, as well as archival material such as photo albums and ship logbooks. The CMS has now become an integral part of the *modus operandi* of the museum.

Research on **Villa Guardamangia** continued unabated throughout the year, so far tracing back to the late 18th century. Members of the working committee conducted a research trip to the United Kingdom, where Historic Royal Palaces organised a series of visits to several of their house museums and palaces in London, Edinburgh, and Belfast. The visits provided new ideas for historic house museums to be implemented by HM. Among the places visited were the Royal Archives at Windsor Castle, where material relating to the royal connection to Malta in general and Villa Guardamangia in particular were identified and set for digitisation. Visits to the closed site have been limited to private tours made by request and were strictly limited to a small number of visitors per group. Among the most prominent of visitors were the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh, who in October toured the house once resided in by the former's parents, the late Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip.

Restoration of **Villa Portelli** is being done in coordination with the historical research undertaken on the site. Among the first items to be identified was a highly detailed survey from 1902 which accurately described each room in the villa and listed the exact number and species of trees that were present in the gardens. Presently, historical documentation of the villa has been traced back to the late 18th century, thanks to the identification of numerous notarial contracts. The research being conducted is now also looking into the surrounding areas and the connection with the nearby church of Tas-Salvatur.

A scientific analysis of illegible original painted labels spread around **Fort Delimara** was made using Infrared Reflectography (IRR). This was an attempt to read information not visible to the naked eye. Although some minor discoveries were made, the labels proved to be too damaged. The Lidar scanning of the entire site was completed, obtaining plans of all levels of the fort.

Research proceeded unabated. A visit to Fort Nelson in Portsmouth to attend for the conference 'Artillery post 1800: Targets, Technology and Tactics' on 18 September helped gather more knowledge on Victorian forts, make contacts with UK curators and have the chance to tour other contemporary forts to compare elements found at Fort Delimara. This visit helped confirm that Fort Delimara's guns are the last surviving examples of their kind in the world. Visits to the National Archives of Malta yielded more information about the early history of the fort, including all the contracts signed for the purchase of land on which the fort was built. More research was done on the history of the site and collection of



Digital reconstruction of the working of the 38-ton gun

historical documentation, including the purchase of several scans of historical maps from the National Archives UK. To this end, a dossier of 119 historical images has been set up, together with another of 59 historical images and plans.

All three audiovisuals in the interpretation centre at Fort St Angelo were revamped, with the addition of new and better-quality imagery and of subtitles to facilitate visitor experience. A re-print of the site's guidebook was published with updated text and imagery. A new small interpretation centre on the history of Ferramolino's cavalier was set up in the cavalier artillery store, while new interpretation on the history of the crypt was set up in collaboration with the SMOM (below pic).

Research on site continued. Of particular note were several visits to the National Archives of Malta which yielded more information on the history of the site during the occupation by the British Army in the second half of the 19th century. Concurrently, the historical maps' inventory of the site comprises a total of 774 maps, while the inventory of historical images of the site numbers 1,704. The total number of artefacts in the fort's collection amounts to 472 items, an increase of 21 items from the previous year, which include both purchases and donations listed in Appendices II-IV.

Interpretation around Fort St Elmo was augmented by the setting up of new interpretation panels at Abercrombie bastion to cover the history of the site's guns and their role in the 26 July 1941 barchetti attack on the Grand Harbour. These panels complement the audio-visual installed last year.

Research on the site's history continued. Visits were made to the National Library of Malta to analyze manuscripts forming part of the Archives of the Order of Malta mentioning Fort St Elmo between 1530 and 1798. Other visits were done to the National Archives of Malta to yield more information about Fort St Elmo in the second half of the 19th century. Research was also conducted on some manuscripts from the Curia archives in relation to the 1775 Rising of the Priests. Moreover, several documents reviewed last year at the National Archives UK are being transcribed, as well as the original Fort Record Book from 1935. Concurrently, the historical maps' inventory of the site comprises a total of 389 maps, while the inventory of historical images of the site comprises 482 files.

During this year, the Fort St Elmo collection (comprising items related to the fort registered under the National War Museum Archive) amounted to 418 objects. These were a mix of purchases and chance finds in other HM sites and museums. New items related to Fort St Elmo already registered and rediscovered within the NWM archives are omitted from the below list since their site inventory number is for recognition purposes only and they are registered under the NWM archives. The full lists can be found in Appendix II-IV

Several important and significant donations were registered by the **National War Museum** this year. One of the first was by Nick Edmunds from England. His grandfather P K D Edmunds, served as a doctor in Malta from May 1941 with the 15th Field Ambulance. The officers were each given a tankard when they arrived in Malta. His commanding officer was Colonel Tom F. Briggs. They were friends after the war and on his death his father was presented with his tankard. Artist David Rowlands donated a print of one of his paintings called 'George Beurling Victory Salute'. It depicts Flight Lieutenant



New interpretation panels at Fort St Angelo

'Screwball' Beurling flying over the SS. *Ohio* after she entered Grand Harbour on 15 August 1942. Beurling was the most prominent and successful RAF fighter ace over Malta, claiming 26 during his brief stay on the Island. Both subjects of the painting are part of Malta's contribution in defeating the Axis siege of the Island.

Another important donation of Rear Admiral Kenneth Harry Litton MacKenzie's set of nine medals was made by Tony Stack. MacKenzie was the King's Harbour Master in Malta from May 1939 to October 1943. He was present when the crest of the Cheshire Regiment was unveiled in HM Dockyard on 17 February 1943 and accompanied British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill in Malta in November 1943. The donated set of medals include the 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, 1939-45 Medal, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal, King George VI Coronation Medal and Companion of the Order of the British Empire, and same miniature medals pertaining to Rear Admiral Kenneth Harry Litton MacKenzie. These medals are in the process of being catalogued, conserved and mounted, to be exhibited soon.

During the Covid years, the museum was approached by members of the Gatt family, namely Neville Gatt, Tony Gatt and Anthony Gatt, who in the past had ancestors or themselves served in the Royal Malta Artillery (RMA). After seeing the Memorial Section of the museum, they offered to donate the family medal collection. The official presentation ceremony took place in October. The donation comprised not only eight sets of different medals, but also a Sword of Honour, inherited from one generation to another. Probably, the most prominent member of their family was Brigadier Alfred Gatt. This was the biggest donation in terms of medals (over 50) which was ever done to the museum.

This led to other similar donations, such as that by Robert von Brockdorff, who donated three very rare medals pertaining to Lieutenant Eugene von Brockdorff who served in the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) during the Second Boer War between 1899 to 1902 in South Africa: the Queen's South Africa Medal, King's South Africa Medal and Africa General Service Medal with three same miniature medals. The second set of medals pertained to Hugh (Ugo) von Brockdorff, consisting of the 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal and the Victory Medal. The third set of medals, pertaining to Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR) consists of the 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 and the Emergency Reserve Decoration and the Malta George Cross Fiftieth Anniversary Medal pertaining to Lieutenant-Colonel Baron Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR). During the war, he served in both 2nd and 3rd Battalions King's Own Malta Regiment. He also served as acting staff captain with 231st Infantry Brigade. He was eventually credited with being the youngest captain in the British Army.

Thanks to this donation and ceremony, other persons who had relatives that served in either the RMA or the King's Own Malta Regiment also gave their donations. One such opportunity came when a member of the Von Brockdorff contacted the curator during the said ceremony and later, after discussions, two donations of three sets of medals were made. Their family's service ranged from serving in South Africa during the Second Boer War in the last years of the 19th century to active service during the Second World War. The family member that served during WWII was no one other than Lieutenant-Colonel Edward von Brockdorff, where the donation included not only medals, but also elements of his official uniforms and his Sword of Honour. By the end of the year, they were being catalogued and prepared to be transferred for conservation.

Although few war paintings are exhibited at the NWM, it holds a substantial number of such paintings, which can be viewed on special request. One such person who was doing research for his book about Rowland Langmaid RN war paintings was Alastair Campbell. Campbell corresponded with the curator about a particular painting by Langmaid who served in the Royal Navy in WWI and WWII. He was an artist who painted particular scenes for the War Department. One of his paintings about the Surrender and Internment of the Italian naval fleet in Malta, forms part of the National War Museum collection. Alastair Campbell, an author, is researching about his paintings, and after he visited the NWM, he contacted the curator asking if it was possible to see this painting. When he came back to the NWM, he came to see this painting, where he admired the technique used by Rowland Langmaid.

Several visitors wished to see the Crest of the Cheshire Regiment, situated at the courtyard of the former National War Museum. Most of them had relatives that served in the same regiment or have served themselves in the regiment and happily shot photographs next to it.

The NWM showcase at head office was finally set up. Artefacts include a booby-trap, three different pieces of barbed wire, an anti-aircraft cartridge and a helmet. The showcase portrays the land and air defence of Malta during WWII. The anti-aircraft defence of the Island are somewhat usually mentioned, but very few mention the anti-invasion devices.

Data loggers which were monitoring the temperature of the rooms housing the reserve collection were collected, to be replaced by more modern ones. Steps were taken to protect the artefacts from dust, and rusted shelves were replaced.

The collaboration between the National War Museum and the Malta Aviation Museum continued. David Polidano and other members of the museum continued their work on rebuilding an actual size replica of the Gloster Sea Gladiator N5519 CHARITY, destroyed during the first weeks of attacks on Malta.

From time to time, the curator received queries by persons who had visited the museum or had relatives that served in Malta during WWI or WWII. A particular query was by a certain Joan Collins about a relative of hers who served on the submarine HMS *Talisman* and lost in September 1942. She needed to know and came to see if her relative was listed in the Remembrance Book. Persons like Ms Collins are usually sensitive when they see the name of their relative on the Remembrance Book.

The curator also contributed for an exhibition in Canada titled 'Malta – The world remembers WWI commemoration' which was held at the Canadian War Museum. The display focused on 'faces of war', photographs showing the suffering of both civilians and military personnel.

Author John Henshaw from Australia contacted the curator for assistance in his research on a book about Convoy Operation 'Pedestal', which eventually led to the publishing of *Malta's saviour: Operation Pedestal August 1942*.

The curator published several articles on the *Times of Malta*. These included, 'Defending Naxxar' pillboxes and other field defences built before and during WWII' (2 parts), 'Navies in exile and Malta'

(3 parts), 'Defence and observation posts at wartime aerodromes and airstrips', and 'Cospicua's pledge and pilgrimage during WWII'. Other articles were also published in several village feasts booklets. These included 'Incidenti differenti f'Had-Dingli bejn, Marzu-Ġunju 1942', 'Attakki u ajrupiani li waqgħu fuq Hal Ġharghur bejn Mejju 1941 u Marzu 1942', 'Attakki mill-ajru fl-inħawi ta' Hal-Luqa, Jannar – Dicembru 1942', 'Incidenti li seħħew fil-Mellieħa fl-ewwel xahrejn tal-1944', and 'Incidenti li seħħew fil-Mellieħa fl-ewwel xhur tal-1944, Marzu-April 1944'. Such contributions are a very useful tool to reach the common man and spread knowledge about the war.

This year also saw the final realisation of the *Malta War Papers* project. An official launch was made during the Remembrance Day open day at Fort St Elmo. The project consists of each issue of the *Malta War Papers* having several articles and photos on both local and international events of WWII, accompanied by a *Times of Malta* issue and a wartime poster.

During these last years, the curator had an opportunity to meet the Italian academic Dott. Davide Zendri from the *Museo storico Italiano della Guerra*, who offered the loan and setup of a small section about the role of the Italian Royal Armed Forces vis-a-vis Malta during the same conflict. The museum lacks Italian uniforms and therefore, it's a great opportunity to open and enhance the experience while visiting the NWM. The same Zendri also offered the curator the opportunity to contribute to their academic journal *Annali*. The curator is comparing the building in Malta and nearby Sicily of pillboxes and casemate/bunkers respectively. The title of his contribution is 'The 'Malta Command' defence scheme of 1942: A comparison between the Maltese pillboxes (1935-42) and the Sicilian *casematte* (1939-43)'.

This year saw a huge increase of requests for information from researchers and past donors regarding the **National War Museum archives**. This means that past efforts to create more awareness of the existence and potential of archives are finally paying off.

Requests were varied – coming from established fiction authors such as Fiona McIntosh, researchers from abroad (mostly the UK) writing books about specific subjects (not always military), university students researching for their dissertations, tourist guides who want to further their knowledge of military history and Fort St Elmo, locals interested in learning more about their family history or family house, architects and notaries needing information for legal purposes, and even local councils carrying out research projects about their particular town or village. The archives have also been contacted by a couple of well-known photographers who are researching the history of photo studios in Malta. The archives provide a vast array of information, not only for the military history enthusiast. Many of the requests resulted in digitizing of material; a good percentage of the collection has now been digitized, also thanks in part to researchers' requests.

There have been a good number of requests to see archival items donated in the past. Descendants of donors who have bequeathed their wartime material to the archives in the 1980s and 1990s have been contacting the museum to learn more about their family history. Donors have approached the museum offering copies of archival material of relatives without realizing that the same thing had been done by their fathers or grandfathers. Some very emotional moments have been witnessed as certain material evokes special memories for donors and relatives of past donors. The archives are increasingly being considered as the place where the memory of loved ones is preserved and, in this

way, relatives feel that part of their loved ones will never be forgotten.

Outreach to get the word out there about the archives is being done through several channels – periodic Facebook posts put the spotlight on certain items found while cataloguing. These also promote notable donations in the hope that more prospective donors are enticed to entrust us with their loved ones' memorabilia. Several sessions with members of the public where the main topic is the National War Museum Archives were held. This helps to bring the existence of the archives to the knowledge of students (especially those who study history) and of seniors who are part of groups such as Active Ageing. This year, the archives were also promoted during Christmas at the Fort through two talks held on two different days. During these talks, a brief history of the archives was given while highlighting the plentiful material related to Christmas found within it. The audience was surprised to learn that archives at a war museum have such a profusion of material related to this festive period of the year. It is a testament to the fact that the archives are a repository for the human side of what went on during the horrid wartime years. The talks were very well received and members of the audience asked if it would be possible to hold the same event in schools. Every issue of *Tesserae* contains an article focusing on a particular archival item from the archives, and this is another way of promoting its holdings.

Cataloguing continued also through interns – Mikael Lia worked at the archives to satisfy the requirement for the Diploma in Cultural Heritage Skills, whilst Madeline Imler from the University of Cork worked for a month at the archives. Both worked diligently and managed to catalogue a good chunk of the general section within the collection known as the National War Museum Association Donations. Mikael has also managed to catalogue the collection of interviews which had been recorded on tape by members of the National War Museum Association. Many of these are transcribed and are already catalogued. Mikael has also greatly contributed towards the transcribing of the ten index books pertaining to the National War Museum Association photographic collection. The same work was also carried out by a group of teacher volunteers who came to spend the day at the archives – following a brief tour of the museum they got to work correcting spelling and grammar (putting their teacher skills to good use) of work done by previous volunteers. Cory Debono is another MCAST student who has been putting in hours volunteering at the archives – he is also helping out in transcribing the handwritten index books. David Vassallo, the volunteer who has been helping for a good number of years has continued providing his valuable input in creating a more detailed catalogue of the army/land section in the collection. David is also using the archives to research in preparation for his upcoming publication with HM – a WWI photographic album from the archives.

The archives have also provided a good number of images for another upcoming HM publication, authored by Frederick Galea, one of the founders of the National War Museum. In preparation for next year's 50th year anniversary of the museum, an interview was conducted with Mr Galea. This will be transcribed, and the digital recording is already catalogued and part of the archive collection. Another interview has been carried out with an ex-AFM soldier who used to work at Fort St Elmo as a young man. He has recounted his wartime experiences as a child and about serving in the army during the transitional period after Malta became independent. It is part of the mission of the archives to record and collect similar experiences.

The main achievement of the year is the completion of the Maltapost digitization project. All the

negatives of the photographic collection of the National War Museum Association have been sent to Gozo in batches over the last couple of years. These have all been painstakingly digitized and there are plans to put a selection of these photographs online on HM's e-museum platform to be enjoyed and used by the public. As described above, volunteers and interns are being asked to work on the transcription of information relating to these images. More than 22,000 images are now available on HM's digital repository Fotoware, where they can be accessed by HM staff.

A considerable investment was made to upgrade the fire-retardant system which protects the archives. HM's preventative conservator and biologist have also inspected the archives and issued a report with recommendations which will be implemented over the coming weeks. New pest traps and data loggers were also put in place.

Time was also invested in the planning events related to the 50th anniversary of the National War Museum. The aim is to make this an occasion to celebrate and promote the museum and its archival collection. In this way, those whose efforts have resulted in one of the most visited museums in Malta will be recognized and celebrated.

EDUCATION,
PUBLISHING &
OUTREACH

This year was packed with thematic and outreach activities offered to independent, church, and government schools. These were delivered through a combination of live and virtual sessions, tailored to the specific requests of each school. Four different online programmes were offered, focusing on the Hypogeum, Neolithic Life, Holocaust Memorial Day, and the *Dghajjes tal-Latini*. 600 students were reached through these programmes. In addition to welcoming students to museums, staff members also visited various schools to discuss topics ranging from history to career opportunities within the cultural heritage sector. The increase in the number of events delivered was also possible through the contribution of museum educators who offer their services on a contract basis.

Throughout the year, a range of cross-curricular thematic sessions were delivered, carefully aligned with the Learning Outcomes Framework of the National Curriculum. These thematic activities focused on historical events or periods taught in classrooms, enhancing the educational value of museum visits by connecting them directly to students' learning. The museum experience offered students the opportunity to engage with primary sources referenced in their textbooks, fostering deeper understanding. With their interdisciplinary design, these activities highlighted the natural links between various subjects. Many were developed in collaboration with Education Officers for the respective subjects and were fully endorsed by the Government's Education Division. Open to all schools, these activities catered to students at every educational level, from kindergarten to post-secondary. New thematic programmes were developed and delivered this year as follows:

- *X'inhi l-Energija* delivered at the National Museum of Natural History targeting Year 4 students.
- *Clean Oceans* delivered at the Malta Maritime Museum as part of the 'Islands at the Crossroads' exhibition targeting Year 7- Year 11 students.
- *Ir-Rewwixta tal-Iskavi* as part of *Il-Malti fl-Istorja* programme at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- *Habitats* Biology Year 11 fieldwork study at Ghar Dalam.

HM delivered 20 distinct programmes throughout the year, engaging a total of 3,600 students. These programmes catered to a broad spectrum of learners, from kindergarten to university students, as well as teachers and education professionals, all of whom benefit from complimentary access to HM sites and museums during organized school visits.

As in previous years, HM hosted a variety of activities organized by different departments within the Ministry of Education. Collaborative efforts with the Mathematics Department, National Literacy Agency, Maltese Department, Art Department, Geography Department, Fashion and Textiles Unit, Drama Unit, Directorate for Digital and Transversal Skills, Directorate for Learning and Assessment Programmes (DCLE), Institute for Education, and History Department were further strengthened. Plans and programmes are already being developed for the upcoming scholastic year. Additionally, the unit provided support for the delivery and organisation of numerous COPE and SDP sessions, reinforcing its commitment to educational excellence.

As part of **Malta's first Biennale**, HM organized an extensive programme of activities targeting a diverse range of audiences. For students holding HM's student passport, events were held at key locations such as Fort St Elmo, MUŻA, and the Inquisitor's Palace. These activities combined art, history, and food, making the Biennale a multi-faceted educational experience. Schools were also a focal point, with tailored sessions for Year 8 students. Held at the Grand Master's Palace and the National

Library, these sessions introduced students to the cultural themes of the Biennale while fostering interdisciplinary learning. Specialized activities for art students, such as tours of the Malta Pavilion and workshops at MUŻA, provided hands-on artistic experiences.

Inclusivity was central to the programme, with unique activities designed for individuals with different abilities. Visually impaired participants explored the pavilions at Fort St Elmo, while students on the autism spectrum engaged in an activity at Haġar Qim. Other sessions catered to those with Down Syndrome and dementia, offering personalized tours and interactive elements. Teachers also participated in Biennale-focused sessions, including guided tours at Villa Portelli and the Birgu Armoury, ensuring they could integrate these themes into classroom learning. Additionally, the Biennale extended its reach to the wider community, seniors, and HM members through thematic tours, walks, and creative workshops. Events such as 'Mixja ma' Mario Coleiro', the 'Biennale by Night' sleepover, and exclusive activities for Cottonera residents and the Valletta local community emphasized community engagement. Together, these events brought Malta's Biennale to life, connecting audiences of all ages and abilities to the nation's vibrant cultural heritage.

The HM **student passport scheme** continued to grow, welcoming a new cohort of Year 1 students. For the sixth consecutive year, an additional 5,000 students and their accompanying adults were granted free access to all HM sites and museums, fostering a deeper appreciation for the nation's cultural heritage. In addition, the scheme expanded its offerings through the VISAs initiative, which provides exclusive opportunities for students and adults to visit sites typically closed to the public, or to participate in unique events and activities. A selection of these special sites was opened, further enriching the educational and cultural experiences available to passport holders. The sites opened were: Tas-Silġ (5 May), the Malta Football Museum (20 September), and the Birchircara Railway Museum (27 December).

This year saw the sixth edition of the **summer programme**, which ran from July to September. The programme offered students a range of engaging talks and activities hosted at HM's sites and museums. With a strong emphasis on the natural environment, the sea served as the central theme. Sessions explored diverse topics such as art, history, science, underwater cultural heritage, home economics, traditions, and geography. Discussions covered intriguing subjects like mythology, seawater desalination, ice cream, sharks, turtles, and conservation efforts. Each session was delivered twice, ensuring accessibility in both Maltese and English. With a total of 19 workshops offered, reaching 250 students and their guardians, this year's programme was another success. Another 19 activities were offered to student passport holders during the year. For full details please refer to Appendix I.

The HM **senior passport scheme** continued to thrive, with xxxxx visits recorded this year. Additionally, another 23 activities were organized exclusively for senior passport holders. All activities are listed in Appendix I.

When visits to HM sites and museums were not possible, we brought the experience to the residents of elderly care homes. Our team organized engaging sessions tailored to their interests, ensuring they could still connect with Malta's rich heritage. These visits provided meaningful opportunities for learning and reminiscing in a comfortable and familiar setting.

Accessibility and outreach were further emphasised. Understanding the varied learning capacities, interests, and skills of its audiences, the department has broadened the scope of activities to ensure inclusivity and engagement. Efforts have been made to create tailored experiences that cater to a wide array of groups, providing meaningful opportunities for participation and learning. This year, several dedicated events and programmes were organized, aiming to reach and inspire the following audiences. These initiatives reflect a commitment to fostering a deeper connection between participants and Malta's rich cultural and natural heritage.

This year's events targeted the below groups:

- Visually impaired, through sensory activities that focused on tactile and olfactory ways of delivering history and culture.
- Hearing impaired, with a tour in sign language of the Grand Master's Palace followed by an activity.
- Autism Spectrum Disorder. This year youths on the autism spectrum were also targeted by working with PRISMS and MCAST Students.
- Down Syndrome, with an art activity as part of the Biennale.
- Students who stammer, through the Fluency Camp at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- People who use service dogs, through a visit and activity at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- Cottonera Community Service, through an activity at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- Cottonera Resource Centre, through a visit and mosaic activity at the Domvs Romana and the National Museum of Natural History.
- People living with Dementia, through tours and activities at MUŻA. The groundwork is also being prepared for more structured activities next year.
- Apogg: Sleepover for youths at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- Caritas Inmate Programme were targeted through a series of activities designed to introduce cultural heritage to inmates, fostering education and connection through culture.
- Migrants, asylum seekers, and foreigners living in Malta. Activities were delivered to specific groups. The 'I Belong' group were once again given free familiarization visits for foreign residents who have permanently settled in Malta. These are coordinated with the University of Malta (83 visits, 1462 participants). An introductory course to Maltese history was also delivered to the foreign carers working at St Vincent de Paul, the latter consisted of eight sessions and visits to the different HM sites/museums. The course was an initiative of the *Ċentru tal-Ilsien Malti*.

Over the course of the year, many more activities were delivered to specific groups that asked for our assistance to visit closed sites or to deliver activities and presentations during open days, heritage and digital festivals, career orientation days, science festivals, heritage days in various schools, school activities, collaborations with various University of Malta Departments and Institute of the Tourism Studies, continuous professional development sessions and celebrations. Of note this year was an 8-session course delivered to St Edward's school titled 'Monitoring Nature' where students were exposed to the skills needed to be able to take on a scientific approach to nature studies. Museums also hosted several activities organised by the National Literacy Agency and the Directorate for Curriculum. The Class without Walls project was hosted again and proved to be an innovative and holistic way by which teachers and students view museums.

A list of the above referenced activities can be found in Appendix I. This year a record 455 activities were delivered, exceeding expectations set at the start of the year.

During the period under review, Heritage Malta's publishing house produced the following title

The Hal Saflieni Hypogeum Skulls; ISBN 978-9918-619-57-3

An Island at the Crossroads; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-59-7, (PBK) 978-9918-619-60-3

The Dockyard from the Workers Perspective: 100 Interviews; ISBN: 978-9918-619-61-0

Life with Aurelia (Maltese Heritage Fun Activity Story Book - 8); ISBN: 978-9918-619-62-7

The Dark Side of Mdina & Rabat; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-63-4; (PBK) 978-9918-619-64-1

maltabiennale.art 2024: Official Guide; ISBN: 978-9918-619-65-8

The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Domvs Romana; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-66-5, (PBK) 978-9918-619-67-2

The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Fort Delimara; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-68-9, (PBK) 978-9918-619-69-6

Wicked Ghost Stories of Malta (2nd Edition); ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-70-2, (PBK) 978-9918-619-71-9

The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Tarxien Prehistoric Complex (2nd Edition); ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-72-6, (PBK) 978-9918-619-73-3

The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Fort St Angelo (2nd Edition); ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-74-0, (PBK) 978-9918-619-75-7

maltabiennale.art 2024; ISBN: 978-9918-619-76-4

Clean Oceans and Mapping Our Seas: Protecting Underwater Cultural Heritage; ISBN: 978-9918-619-77-1

Heritage Malta Annual Report 2023; ISBN: 978-9918-619-78-8

Colouring Malta & Gozo: Landmarks & Monuments; ISBN: 978-9918-619-79-5

maltabiennale.art 2024 Malta National Pavilion; ISBN: 978-9918-619-80-1

Underwater Treasures of Malta & Gozo; ISBN: (HBK) 978-9918-619-81-8, (PBK) 978-9918-619-82-5

Fun Discoveries; ISBN: 978-9918-619-83-2

British Maps of Malta; ISBN: 978-9918-619-84-9

Cartographia: Map Treasures of the National Library of Malta; ISBN: 978-9918-619-85-6

Grand Master's Palace: The Armoury Chronicles; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-619-86-3, (PBK) 978-9918-619-87-0

The Bulletin of the National Museum of Natural History, Vol. 1, Issue 1; ISBN: 978-9918-619-88-7

Betrayal & Vengeance: The Slave Conspiracy of 1749 in 19 Drawings; ISBN: (HBK) 978-9918-619-89-4, (PBK) 978-9918-619-90-0

The Malta War Papers, Issue 1 – Malta and the Outbreak of War; ISBN: 978-9918-619-91-7

The Malta War Papers, Issue 2 – The First Italian Raids; ISBN: 978-9918-619-92-4

The Malta War Papers, Issue 3 – Convoy 'Operation Hats'; ISBN: 978-9918-619-93-1

Hjut ta' Fidi: Vestwarju Liturgiku tal-Ordni ta' San Ġwann; ISBN: 978-9918-619-94-8

TOPIA: An Exhibition by Barnaby Barford; ISBN: (HBK) 978-9918-619-95-5, (PBK) 978-9918-619-96-2

Clean Oceans and Mapping Our Seas: Workbook; ISBN: 978-9918-619-97-9

Tesserae 14; ISBN: 978-9918-619-98-6

Edward Pirotta Sculptor, 1939-1968; ISBN: 978-9918-619-99-3

The Cippi of Malta: Their Story and Voyage; ISBN: 978-9918-627-00-4

Morte o Fortuna (Budget Edition); ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-627-05-9, (PBK) 978-9918-627-01-1

British Army Murals at the Main Guard; ISBN: 978-9918-627-02-8

The Republic of Malta: The First 50 Years, 1974-2024; ISBNs: (HBK) 978-9918-627-03-5, (PBK) 978-9918-627-04-2

L-Ewwel Snin tal-Ghaqda tal-Kittieba tal-Malti; ISBN: 978-9918-627-06-6

Senglea Historical Society Annual Journal; ISBN: 978-9918-627-07-3

Air-Sea Rescue Operations at Malta and the Kalafrana Sea Base, 1940-1943; ISBN: 978-9918-627-08-0



CORPORATE AFFAIRS

This was another challenging and at the same rewarding year for the **Human Resources Department**, which continued with its restructuring process by consolidating several departments to be in line with the vision and mission of the agency. Some important milestones were also reached, and new initiatives were introduced. Special effort was made to enhance the existing policies, in line with the recommendations of the National Audit Office, while supporting a healthy work-life balance.

The agency continued to invest in its people by strengthening its resources and providing the required training, assistance, and support to its staff. The department also continued to provide training and continuous professional development, while participating in the consultation process of the National Education Strategy 2024-30, in the implementation of the Gender Equality and Mainstreaming Strategy and Action Plan 2022-27, and Anti-Racism Action Plan.

A new attendance recording policy was introduced in August, to establish a comprehensive procedure for recording employee attendance during working hours, specifying the mandatory process of using the biometric reader system for punching in and out. To implement this new policy, the agency invested in a new, more efficient punching system in all sites, which supports hand, fingerprint and face recognition facilities and is being integrated with the payroll system. These new devices and the storage of data retrieved by these devices are GDPR compliant. In preparation for this move, 'Attendance' and 'Scheduler' modules were introduced in the Indigo portal. This system replaced two former attendance record systems, namely Spektrum and Clockify. We ensured that this new system is automated to have less discrepancies and manual input, and to provide a more holistic service. Furthermore, those employees who work remotely has also been integrated within this system, replacing the weekly submission of the report working sheets.

In October, the overtime procedure was reviewed to ensure that overtime approval is given only in cases of essential work pertaining to strict deadlines or in cases of events happening after official working hours. This is to ensure that overtime is kept to an absolute minimum. In December, the Remote Working Policy was also reviewed to better meet current operational needs and adapt to the evolving work environment, alongside the revised family-friendly measures in the Collective Agreement. New modern work practices such as the flexi-week were introduced, while the flexible hours were extended.

This year internal training focused on the continuous awareness on firefighting and fire control training, targeted for Visitor Services employees as well as for the Technology and Experience development department & curatorial teams.

Another induction course for 22 new recruits was organised in September. This four-day programme included presentations from various departments, visits to the conservation labs and workshops, and a short tour of various sites and museums including Gozo, apart from specifically targeted sessions on customer care, health and safety, and ICT tools.

HM also provided continuous professional development (CPD) to warranted conservators and other staff focusing on climate control and sustainability, identification of insect pests in collections and integrated pest management, report writing and documentation, and teamwork and multidisciplinary tasks. We also offered an inhouse workshop on prehistory and the contribution of conservators in prehistoric sites. Some courses were applicable for a targeted audience only, such

as a course on the introduction to corrosion of metals and alloys, polymers and culture heritage, the history and conservation of maritime tapestries, degradation of paints, adhesives and conservations, specific training on plastics and others. CPD courses were also offered to architects and finance and procurement officers.

HM continued also to support staff who expressed their wish to follow any CPD in the different forms of such courses, seminars, webinars, conferences, lectures etc. Topics varied from storage of hazardous materials, cultural heritage and new technologies, the art of sailmaking in Malta, mitigating flood risk for heritage, to different courses such as a Latin course, basic radiation safety awareness, cultural X-Ray radiography, human factors in diving, and more. The HR team also joined a good number of CPDs during the year.

The HR office assisted employees to submit their application for Heritage Skills Registration with the Warrants Board. Seven have successfully received the heritage skills card. Employees from the Masonry Restoration Unit and Manufacture and Upkeep Department were assisted to apply and obtain their Skill cards through the Building and Construction Authority. Six technical staff have been successfully awarded the Construction Industry Skill Cards valid for five years. We have also assisted a number of foreign conservators employed with the agency with the paperwork and preparation required to submit their application for a temporary warrant. Three members of staff have been granted a three-year temporary conservators warrant, issued on 1 December. The agency also approved sponsorships to 11 staff to be able to follow specific courses related to their duties.

Training was also provided in collaboration with third party entities, including office administration skills, leadership skills, Maltese as a foreign language, design and management of EU cohesion projects, disaster risk management for cultural heritage, sustainability of the tourism sector, resilience training, and on restitution of cultural property. HM in collaboration with the Institute for Public Services (IPS) has again provided different training courses aimed for staff from different departments. Training included building effective teams, basic management skills and report writing. Training on government modern workplace and digital technology at the workplace was also provided in collaboration with MITA.

Team-building activities for staff were once again high on the agenda to enhance communication, encourage creativity, building trust, discovering strength and weaknesses and developing confidence within team members. Several days out of the office were organised for different teams, including visitor services, conservators, projects department, design & branding, finance and procurement. Activities varied from fun activities to organised visits in closed sites or in sites which are temporary closed due to ongoing projects.

Of equal importance were social events organised by the Activities Committee to build relationships between the employees, acquire new skills, stimulate the mind, increase motivation, understand different perspectives, and the possibility to engage other cultures. These activities included sports, social gatherings, team building activities, educational gatherings, and activities involving employees' immediate families and friends.

The Committee organised more than 17 social events: including fully fledged events such as the Sunset

Soirée, the December networking event and the inhouse Panto. The Meet and Eat events were again popular, as were events for children of HM staff during Christmas, Carnival and Easter holidays. The Committee also participated in walks and events to raise money for voluntary organisations such as Puttinu Cares, Community Chest Fund, and helped sanctuaries such as Noah's Ark. A Comino tour was also organised in summer where history and leisure merged, and staff could enjoy a full day on the island.

HM offered different work placements to different students in various areas. These 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 museums. Eight students benefitted from this scheme. Other work placements were possible thanks to the collaboration with MEYR, where students attending the sixth forms institutions were given a number of hours in a limited period. Placements were varied such as conducting custodian duties, processing senior passport applications, helping curators in collecting or processing data. 12 students participated through this scheme. This year, HM also offered placement to three students through the MITA student placement programme. Placements were affected at the Technology & Experience Development Unit. During the summer period, we also offered eight placements in collaboration with the IPS summer scheme.

HM continued to strengthen its collaboration with MCAST regarding the apprenticeship scheme, employing 30 new students. Students are currently following full time courses at MCAST, varying from masonry restoration to Advanced Diploma in heritage skills, marketing, business administration, IT networking, multimedia and in fashion and retail. 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 20 students, who are contributing in different departments including curatorial, marketing, digitisation and international affairs.

This year was another challenging year as regards to recruitment. The HR department continued working on the capacity building for each department by prioritising the needs in line with HM restructuring. HM was allocated new headcounts to strengthen the resources in various departments. The agency also continued with recruitment to fill in replacement of retirements and resignations. HM is currently employing 361 full time employees; it also employs 52 apprentices, trainees, and students, and has 12 employees on loan.

Several internal promotions were issued in view of its restructuring process. The departments effected include curatorial, DSL, manufacture and upkeep, customer relations, human resources, procurement, and tenders and contracts. These promotions varied from senior professional officers to clerks. Around 24 employees working in various HM departments were affected in the internal mobility process. This year a total of 2,936 instances were reported as absent due to sickness by various employees. The highest rate of absenteeism being January (15%), followed by February and July (10.6% & 10.2% respectively). The lowest rate of absenteeism was marked in December and August (5.1% & 6.7% respectively). 18 employees left the agency for various reasons. 11 resigned, five retired, and two were terminated following the expiration of the definite contract of employment.

The **Visitor Services Department** continued with its monthly site audits. In addition to these monthly audits, we have continued to perform telephone audits, a practice established in 2023 to evaluate compliance with Directive 4.2 and ensure consistency in front-of-house operations. In the last quarter, we implemented the Shop Recovery Tickets, which will now be included in the monthly audits conducted by the Principal Officers.

HM engaged a private firm to conduct a comprehensive security audit across all open sites and museums. The audits were conducted in October and November and included two distinct approaches: 1) Unannounced Visits – Representatives from the firm visited sites anonymously as regular visitors to observe the effectiveness of existing security measures, and 2) Formal Visits – The same representatives conducted scheduled visits, meetings with HM officials to review entry and exit points, evaluate current security protocols, and perform other necessary assessments. The findings from these audits were compiled into a final report, which was subsequently presented to management for review and action.

Various procedures were reviewed and updated, including site/museum closure, HMSL contract management, front of house manual (logbooks, floats, safe keys, server cabinet keys, internet failure procedure, EPOS manual, EYCA cardholders, discontinuation of One-for-All vouchers, onsite lockers). New procedures were also introduced: gift shop exchange policy, scanning merchandise to prevent swapping, issuing fiscal VAT receipts, shop recovery tickets, redeeming gift vouchers, and Underground Valletta tickets.

We have improved the use of the Shireburn scheduler, ensuring that the monthly roster is regularly updated to reflect the latest changes. A notable improvement is that Front of House (FOH) staff can now view both vacation leave and sick leave directly on the platform – an enhancement from the previous year where such information was not visible on the weekly schedule. By manually inputting leave data, we have improved transparency and accessibility for all front office staff. Additionally, we have endeavored to incorporate other key information typically included in the roster, such as training sessions and courses, into the scheduler to streamline operations and ensure comprehensive scheduling.

In line with its mission to facilitate greater accessibility to cultural heritage, Heritage Malta extended the opening hours of five key historical sites by two hours a day – one in the morning and one in the evening. This initiative was designed to help visitors make the most of the long summer days, allowing them ample time to explore these sites at a relaxed pace. The sites included in this pilot project were the National Museum of Archaeology, Fort St Elmo, the National War Museum, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park, the exhibition 'An Island at the Crossroads' at the Malta Maritime Museum, and Fort St Angelo. A new shift pattern was introduced for staff to be able to operate with extended hours.

The collaboration between the Visitor Services Department and the MTA Quality Assurance Office has grown stronger. All previously Quality Assured sites successfully renewed their certifications, reaffirming their commitment to excellence. Additionally, several new sites were recognized with the prestigious Quality Assurance Award, including the Domvs Romana, the National Museum of Natural History, the Inquisitor's Palace, the Gran Castello Historic House and the Old Prison. This achievement underscores the ongoing dedication to maintaining and enhancing quality standards across HM's sites.

The Customer Relations Department is now in its second year since its establishment. After successfully clearing the backlog of customer queries, memberships and senior passports, we are currently focusing on understanding and addressing customer needs and preferences. Over the past year, we have been collecting statistics on the most popular destinations among our members. Additionally, we are planning to analyse the age demographics of our members. This will help us design a targeted membership campaign, offering even greater benefits to various market segments.

We have also been monitoring online reviews and actively responding to social media queries, posts and requests. As part of our efforts to improve efficiency, we have started implementing an online IT system to integrate emails and correspondence received from customers. Additionally, we have continued refining policies and procedures to streamline our operations. One of our key objectives is to develop a chatbot system that will provide instant replies to customers, while more complex issues will be directed to staff.

This year, our primary focus has been on enhancing shop performance and improving the overall customer experience across all our **museum shops**. Through a series of targeted initiatives, we have aimed to create a more engaging and efficient shopping environment.

We have been refining our performance evaluation methods to implement new incentives. The proposed system focuses on assessing sales per individual staff member rather than by site, promoting fairness and accuracy. This initiative seeks to boost individual accountability and motivation among employees. Sales goals were successfully introduced across all gift shops. These are closely monitored to ensure steady progress and identify areas that require additional support or adjustments.

Significant improvements were made to the visual appeal of museum shop displays at all locations. These upgrades, which include the purchase of additional shop displays, are part of an ongoing effort to align with customer preferences and market trends. Museum shops in Valletta were adorned with festive decorations during the holiday season, creating a warm and inviting shopping atmosphere. Updates to the shop display at the Malta Aquarium were also completed.

Our collaboration with the Malta Football Association to sell official products in HM shops has been a success. These items have received positive feedback and are performing well in our shops. A new shop at Fort St Angelo was proposed. This will expand our retail footprint and provide customers with greater access to our products.

We are working to improve stock-taking processes by adopting a more organized and systematic approach. Regular audits are conducted to quickly identify and address any issues, ensuring accurate stock levels. This encourages staff to stay attentive and proactive.

Several new HM-branded products were introduced, including prehistoric and Grand Master-themed Nemnem candles, Luke Azzopardi scarves, earrings, silver jewellery, Slaves exhibition merchandise, Repubblika ta' Malta and Iċ-Ċippus themed items. The Knights collection was also revamped with updated packaging. To gauge customer interest, new products such as fans, tube puzzles, mirrors, spatulas, laces, carpets, and tablecloths were tested. We are also exploring supplier managed inventory solutions to maintain product availability and ensure timely deliveries.

It was a particularly hectic year for **Communications and Marketing**. 2024 started with a bang for HM, as January saw the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta reopen its doors following a major restoration project which was the most ambitious one of its kind undertaken by the agency to date. The project entailed the restoration of the Piano Nobile corridors, the Armoury's relocation back to its original place, the creation of a visitor centre in the area known as Palazzo del Monte and the Orangerie, and the restoration of the courtyards and the state halls, amongst others.

In total, the restoration project of the Grand Master's Palace will be executed through an investment of more than €40 million, financed by the Maltese Government with a co-financing of €18 million by the European Union as part of the European Regional Development Fund.

From a marketing perspective, the restoration of the Grand Master's Palace was promoted extensively through a blend of traditional and digital channels. Key efforts included advertising at Suq tal-Belt, placing online and print banners with *Times of Malta* and *Malta Today*, running carousel ads on *Lovin Malta*, and ensuring a visual presence on *Petit Futé*. The inauguration ceremony was also broadcast on ONE TV, further amplifying its reach.

Another reopening happened in February, albeit partially, when the exhibition 'An Island at the Crossroads' was launched at the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu, marking the completion of the initial phase of the restoration project currently underway at the museum. This phase was partly financed through the EEA Norway Grants 2014-2021 for a total of nearly €2 million.

The exhibition is centred around the concept of Malta's strategic position in the middle of the Mediterranean Sea. The artefacts on display are tied to 20 themes, each telling a story related to the sea but also conveying the aims that have been achieved through the EEA Norway Grants both in terms of structural works at the museum and the digital systems that have been introduced.

Various initiatives linked to the exhibition were taken throughout the year. These included new educational material for young visitors, aimed at deepening their understanding of our oceans' critical role in preserving cultural heritage. The didactic material explores pressing issues such as ghost gear, ocean acidification, sea level rise, and the ocean's role as a carbon sink.

Another initiative was the public hybrid conference titled 'Clean Oceans and Mapping Our Seas', which was held in June by HM and Stavanger Maritime Museum (MUST) at the Malta Maritime Museum. The event delved into how advanced digitization technology can mitigate the negative impacts of human activity on our oceans and help preserve the associated cultural heritage. Distinguished keynote speakers from the European Commission, UNESCO, HM's Digitization and Underwater Cultural Heritage Units, and experts from various European countries participated in the conference.

A series of public talks by ex-Malta Drydocks workers was also held in conjunction with the exhibition 'An Island at the Crossroads', besides the publication of a HM book entitled 'The Dockyard from the Workers' Perspective - 100 Interviews'.

The exhibition 'Island at the Crossroads' and its outreach activities have been extensively throughout the year using similar channels to the inauguration of the Grand Master Palace, as well as videos at

the Cirkewwa and Valletta digital terminals, the Malta Song, and the Eurovision, on TV programs such as Mal-Moll and Nettuno, as well as at 'Is-Suq tal-Belt' and Tal-Linja ads.



The exhibition 'An Island at the Crossroads'



The exhibition and its activities were promoted with an ambitious marketing campaign that extended across various platforms, including videos at the Ċirkewwa and Valletta digital terminals, ads during *The Malta Song* and *Eurovision*, TV programs like *Mal-Moll* and *Nettuno*, as well as advertising on *Tal-Linja* buses. These efforts ensured 'An Island at the Crossroads' reached diverse audiences, cementing its place as a landmark cultural offering for 2024.

March saw HM organising Malta's first-ever art biennale, *maltabiennale.art 2024*, which transformed some of Malta's most beloved heritage sites into stages for artistic creations and expressions, and aimed to enhance the relevance of museums and cultural sites for 21st-century audiences. Bringing together over 100 acclaimed artists hailing from 35 nations, including Malta, the biennale unfolded across 17 heritage sites in Malta and Gozo, providing a tapestry of unique artistic visions where each painting, sculpture, video installation and other creations breathed new life into these historically significant locations.

The central theme of *maltabiennale.art 2024*, *White Sea Olive Groves*, played out within the biennale's Main Pavilion, an artistic exploration that came to life across several locations and through four intertwined sub-themes: *Can You Sea?: The Mediterranean as a Political Body*; *The Counterpower of Piracy*; *Decolonising Malta: Polyphony Is Us*; and *The Matri-archive of the Mediterranean*. Each sub-theme provided a canvas for diverse perspectives, all of which collectively strove to challenge preconceptions about the role of art in society, explore how contemporary art can shed new light on our heritage, and offer new perspectives into Maltese and Mediterranean identity.

In addition to this extravaganza of contemporary visual art, *maltabiennale.art 2024* also presented a vastly diverse programme featuring over 100 curatorial and endorsed events taking place each week. Spanning theatrical performances, insightful art films, informative lectures, interactive workshops, and family-friendly activities for children, this varied programme invited audiences and artists alike to immerse themselves in an extended celebration of arts and culture in all their glorious forms and expressions across Malta and Gozo.

The inaugural edition of *maltabiennale.art*, which ran until the end of May, received extensive coverage in local and international media. It was held under the patronage of the President of Malta and UNESCO, making it the only biennale out of 300 worldwide to receive such backing from a United Nations agency.

The success of the inaugural edition motivated the agency to ensure that the second biennale provides an enriching experience for visitors, promotes Malta's rich cultural heritage, strengthens the local art scene, and enhances Malta's position on the global cultural calendar. Preparations for the *maltabiennale.art 2026* are in full swing.

In March, HM also launched its patronage concept, offering several options for members of the public to make national heritage a part of their own legacy by becoming HM patrons. HM patronage goes far beyond access to sites or a sense of belonging – it is first and foremost about strengthening our rich cultural identity and investing in the restoration and protection of Malta's heritage for future generations to enjoy. HM patronage is intended for everyone, everywhere. The agency has therefore designed flexible patronage options to suit different tastes and circumstances.

A new restoration project was announced by HM in April, this time regarding the Siege Bell War Memorial in Valletta, which commemorates the victims of the Second World War in Malta. The monument's external hardstone cladding showed signs of serious deterioration of the concrete structure, arising from its exposed location. Structural reinforcing and repair works were therefore required to prevent any further damage. The project also includes the consolidation of waterproofing layers as well as the necessary structural reinforcing works to the cupola, ring-beams and substructure, resulting in a general refurbishment of the monument's internal and external spaces.

The year saw a series of highly successful Open Days organized by HM, drawing thousands of attendees and showcasing the country's rich cultural heritage. On April 7th, the Domvs Romana, and the National Museum of Natural History opened their doors to the public free of charge, accompanied by a special program of guided tours and entertainment. This was followed by a similar event on April 20th at Ghar Dalam and Borġ in-Nadur, further engaging visitors with Malta's historical treasures.

The weekend of 27-28 April saw the much-anticipated Open Day at Fort Delimara, which once again demonstrated the site's immense popularity and potential, following its success in previous years. April also featured a series of Easter-themed events designed especially for children, including interactive *Figolli* cook-along sessions and exciting Easter egg hunts held at various historic sites. During the Fireworks Festival, Taste History hosted a buffet dinner at Fort St Angelo, offering guests a stunning view of the fireworks as a backdrop. The event was a resounding success and received excellent feedback. On 5 May, the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta hosted its Open Day, attracting thousands of visitors and cementing its place as a key cultural highlight of the year.



At the Inquisitor's Palace

June was a very exciting month for HM, with several initiatives by the agency being communicated to the public and receiving encouraging feedback. It was announced that renowned local designers Charles and Ron Van Maarschalkerweerd Borg, the creative minds behind the fashion label Charles & Ron, had donated to the national collection a dress made by them for the prestigious Commonwealth Fashion Exchange 2017. The public was invited to admire the dress during a temporary exhibition at the Inquisitor's Palace, which houses the national textiles collection.



Donated dress by local designers Charles and Ron Van Maarschalkerweerd Borg

In collaboration with the National Archives of Malta and their MEMORJA project, HM announced a new initiative to document the recent history and personal connections of the community with the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum. This call for stories sought to gather memories and photographs from individuals connected to the site, enriching the narrative of this UNESCO World Heritage Site with personal insights and experiences. The project aimed to collect anecdotes and experiences of the Hypogeum from before the 1980s, highlighting the site's influence on visitors and residents.

Favourable weather provided the perfect opportunity for a variety of engaging events hosted by HM. Food enthusiasts aged eight and above enjoyed hands-on sessions creating traditional *firas* at the Inquisitor's Palace. Meanwhile, Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum came alive with captivating nighttime reenactments. Additional highlights included a special opening of the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs and an insightful seminar, 'The Maltese Bride', which explored the evolution of wedding attire in Malta during the 19th and 20th centuries.

In June as well, HM launched its 2024 Student Summer Programme, promising a fun-filled and educational experience for young heritage enthusiasts. Running from July to September, this year's programme featured 19 unique events centred around the theme of the sea. This being the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, the agency leveraged its summer

programme to increase awareness among the younger generation about the importance of safeguarding our oceans and seas. To raise more awareness on the significance of Maltese culinary heritage, HM launched a cooking course titled *Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese Culinary Heritage*. This course, designed for both children and adults, offered participants the opportunity to delve into the history of key ingredients while mastering a series of traditional recipes that showcase the finest dishes the islands have to offer.

HM also announced the commencement of a two-year restoration project for the tapestries of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta. The iconic tapestries, a treasure in themselves, have adorned the Tapestry Chamber for over three centuries and are now undergoing meticulous restoration at the De Wit Royal Manufacturers in Belgium. In total, 10 large tapestries, each weighing approximately 40 kilograms, along with six window panels and a door panel, were delicately removed from the Palace and transported to Belgium. The conservation process will include the removal of old linings, thorough cleaning using specialized vacuum and aerosol suction techniques to prevent dye bleeding, and the consolidation of weakened silk areas with custom-dyed fabrics. During the tapestries' absence, HM is conducting restoration work on the Tapestry Chamber itself, ensuring it is prepared to safely and securely host the tapestries upon their return.



Observing the conservation process in Belgium

A new exhibition, entitled 'Betrayal and Vengeance: The Slaves' Conspiracy of 1749 in 19 historical drawings', marking the 275th anniversary of the historic failed revolt, was inaugurated at the Inquisitor's Palace in September. Running until March 2025, the exhibition centres around a set of numbered paintings, recently restored by HM. The drawings illustrate the severe crackdown which

ensued after the failing of the famous plot, featuring intensely graphic scenes which offer a rare and unflinching look at the brutal realities of the past.

To promote 'Betrayal and Vengeance', a comprehensive marketing campaign was launched, including advertisements in magazines, online carousels, and printed leaflets. Roll-up banners, flags, and large-scale banners were prominently displayed in Birgu, complemented by a strong digital presence with online ads. The exhibition was also featured in several TV segments, such as *Knock About Sicilia*, and bolstered by extensive outreach programs organized in collaboration with local councils.

Later in the year, HM expanded its marketing efforts through influencer marketing, strategically targeting different age groups. Influencers were selected to promote children's events during the school holidays, specifically reaching out to parents, while Ivan Grech was engaged for broader exposure of our events and exhibitions to a more general audience.

In October, HM announced a significant collaboration with the Eden Leisure Foundation, which is funding the restoration of the Grand Master's carriage, a treasured 18th-century Berline coach housed in the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta. This restoration forms part of the larger Grand Master's Palace restoration project. The carriage, a luxury French-manufactured coach from the 1780s adorned with green velvet interiors, holds a unique place in Maltese history. It will eventually be displayed as a centrepiece in the newly restored Grand Master's Palace.



Signing of collaboration with the Eden Leisure Foundation

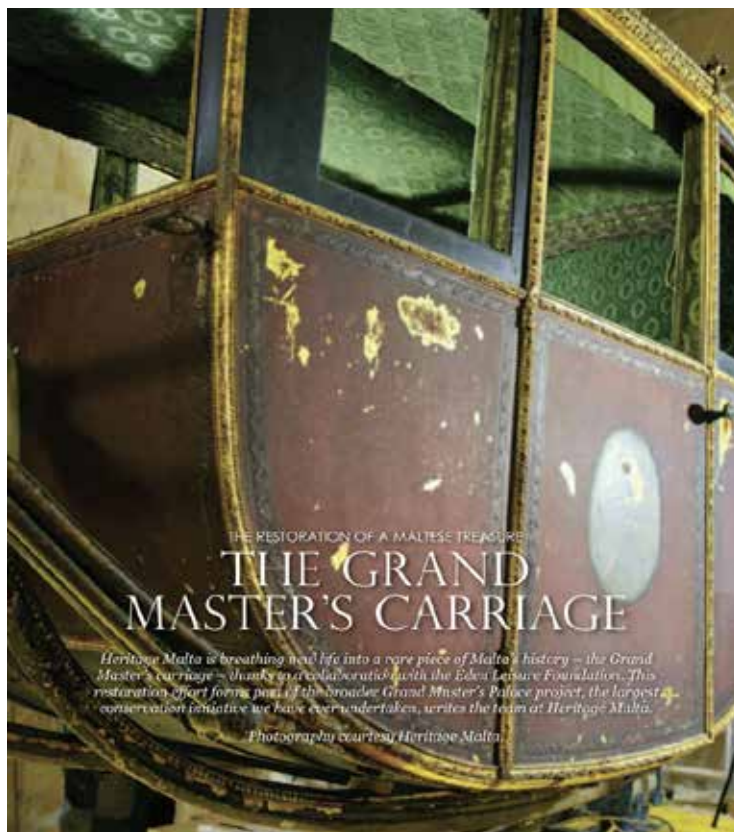


Restoration of the Grand Master's Carriage

As part of the Grand Master's Palace restoration, a detailed marketing plan has been crafted for the Grand Master's Carriage project, spanning October 2024 through March 2025. This comprehensive strategy incorporates a mix of online and offline marketing efforts designed to maintain consistent engagement over the coming months while building anticipation for the project's culmination. Until February 2025, the focus is on releasing compelling content

across various platforms, including updates on the restoration process, highlights of the carriage's historical significance, and engaging behind-the-scenes footage. These efforts will be complemented by interviews with experts and stakeholders to provide deeper insights and sustain public interest.

In March 2025, as the project launch approaches, the marketing efforts will pivot towards a direct invitation for the public to visit the restored carriage. This final push will feature a robust social media campaign, digital advertisements, and targeted print placements, all aimed at capturing a wide audience and driving on-site engagement. By combining storytelling with strategic promotion, this campaign seeks to ensure a strong and impactful public response to this significant heritage milestone.

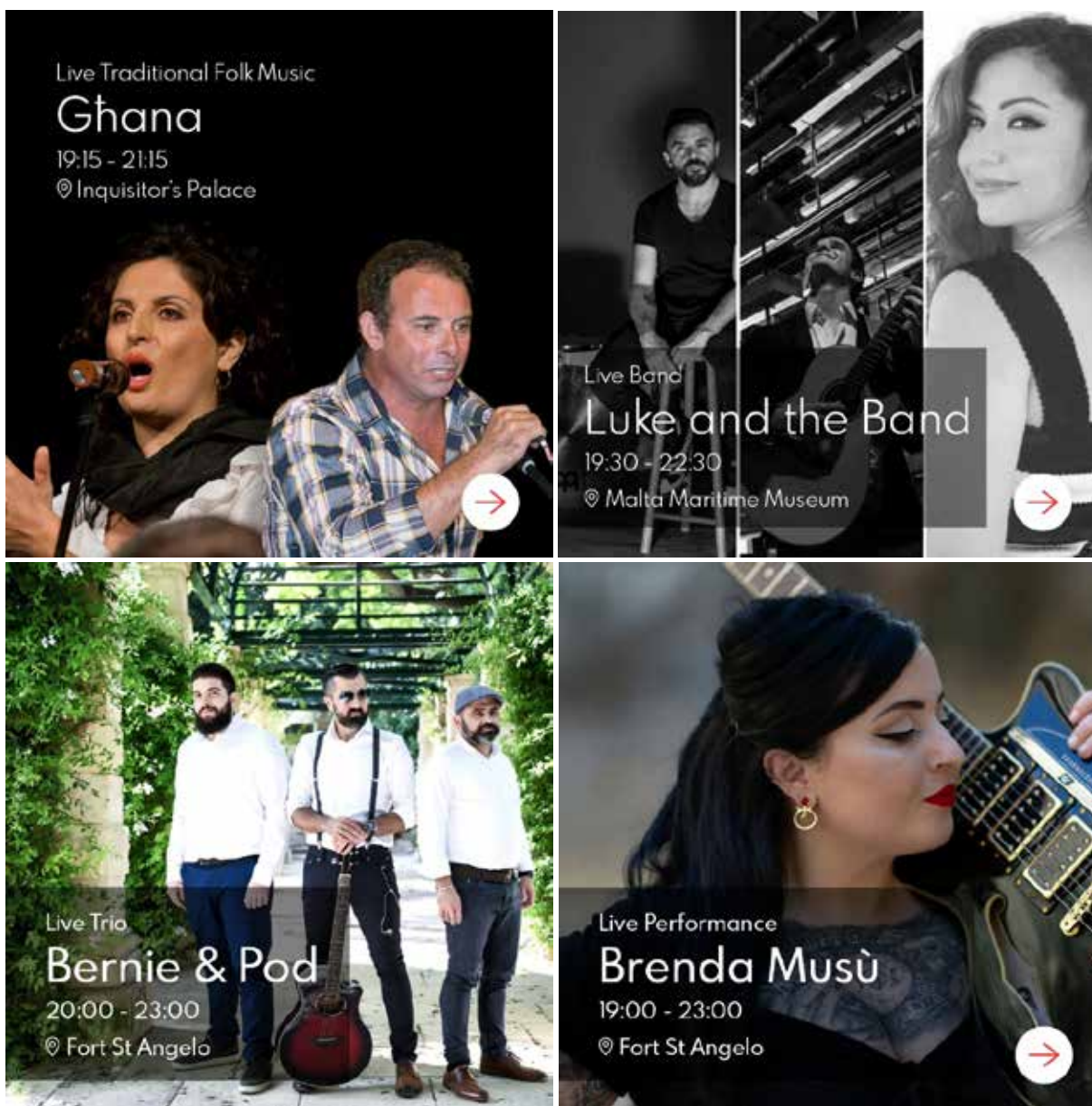


HM once again proudly participated in the Freshers' Week events at the Junior College, MCAST, and the University of Malta, continuing our tradition of engaging with Malta's student population. This year, we added an exciting twist to our presence with an array of appealing merchandise tailored to students, including branded reusable water bottles, tote bags, notebooks, and pens, which were a hit among attendees. However, our participation went beyond giveaways. We engaged directly with students to gather valuable insights into their perceptions of HM. Through interactive discussions and surveys, we learned that 63% of students regularly visit HM exhibitions, sites, and museums locally, while 59% expressed an active interest in historical sites when traveling abroad. The subject matters students are most eager to see include Malta's cultural heritage, war history, art, architecture, science, innovation, and climate change. Instagram emerged as the top platform for their preferred medium of communication and advertising.

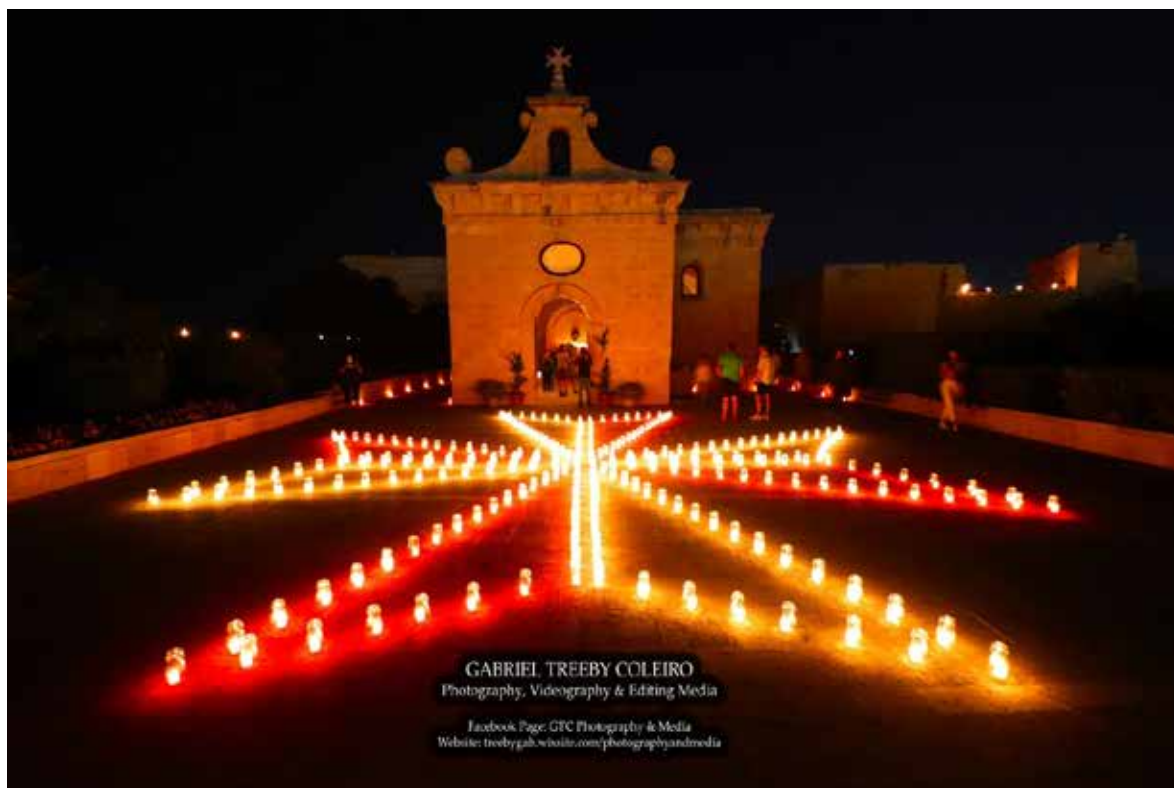
To incentivize participation, students who subscribed to our initiatives were entered into an exciting draw to win the latest iPhone 16. This added an extra layer of engagement and generated excitement among attendees. The campaign was strategically marketed through youth-focused channels such as Free Hour, Lovin Malta, and Bay Radio. Meanwhile, our digital marketing team worked tirelessly throughout the week, uploading dynamic stories and real-time updates to keep our followers engaged and informed. This initiative strengthened HM's connection with the younger generation, highlighting their interests and preferences while showcasing the innovative ways we are adapting to remain relevant to this important demographic.



On 12-13 October, HM hosted its inaugural 'Museums by Candlelight' event in the historic setting of Birgu. The Inquisitor's Palace, the Malta Maritime Museum, and Fort St Angelo welcomed visitors at reduced prices for an unforgettable evening of immersive history and culture. The museums and their surroundings were enchantingly illuminated with candles and *fiaccoli*, creating a magical ambiance that perfectly complemented the themed guided tours. The event was brought to life with captivating live entertainment, featuring skilled musicians, vibrant bands, and traditional Maltese folklore performances. Guests had the opportunity to relax in the atmospheric outdoor areas, savouring delicious food and beverages available on-site.



These events were heavily promoted across HM's platforms and leading social media portals such as *Lovin Malta*, *Gwida*, *Malta Daily*, and *Times of Malta*. The promotional campaign also saw numerous HM staff members participating in interviews on various television channels, further building anticipation and awareness. This extraordinary evening, which drew hundreds of attendees, was not only a resounding success but also a testament to the teamwork and collaboration of all involved. From planning to execution, the Museums by Candlelight event showcased the dedication and collective effort of HM's team, setting a new standard for memorable cultural experiences.

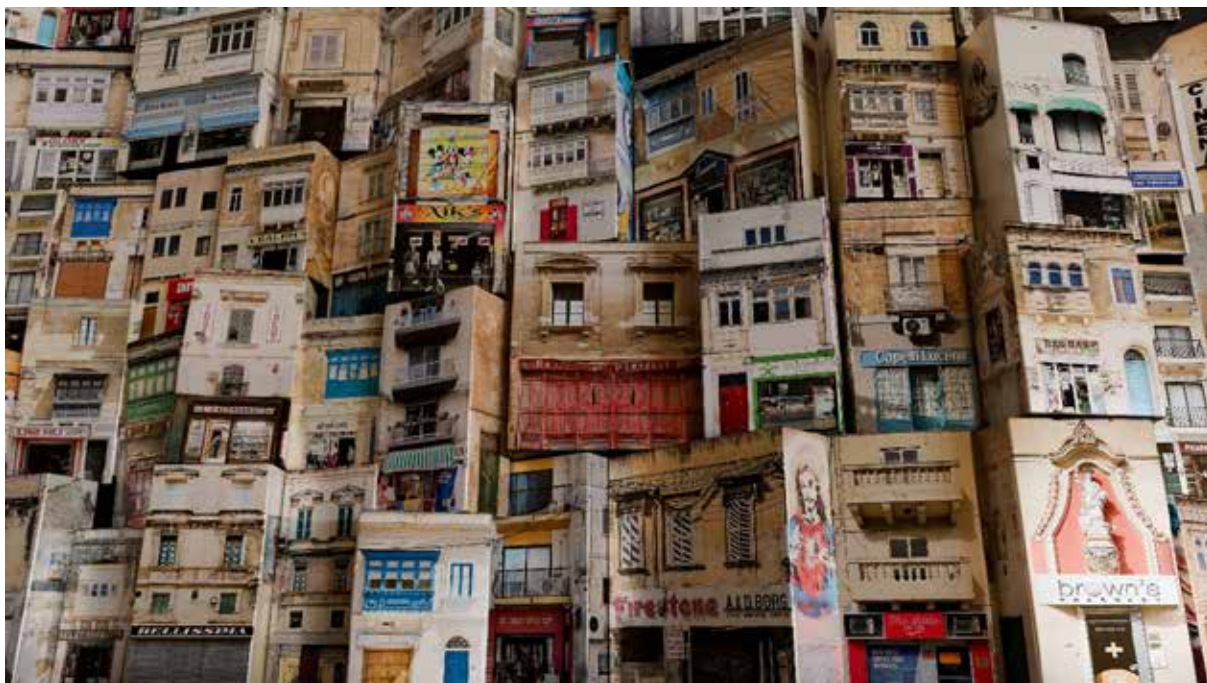


October also saw the launch of 'TOPIA', a captivating exhibition by London-based artist Barnaby Barford at MUŻA. Running until 19 January 2025, the exhibition offered a unique exploration of Malta's rich cultural and socio-economic fabric, viewed through the lens of its local shops. Enamoured of the country's iconic shopfronts ever since his visit in 2019, Barford amassed over 11,000 photographs of shops from his bicycle travels across Malta and Gozo. The artist transformed this collection into 1,000 handcrafted fine bone china representations of real shops, shaped around an evocative Maltese street framed by iconic rubble walls, inviting reflection on the evolving communities of the islands.



To ensure widespread awareness and engagement, a comprehensive marketing campaign was launched in support of 'TOPIA'. This included, a dedicated e-commerce website, prominent newspaper advertisements in *The Malta Independent* and *The Sunday Times*, alongside several TV interviews featuring the Principal Curator of MUŻA, Dr Katya Micallef, and the artist Barnaby Barford himself. Additional features aired on *One TV*, complemented by a radio campaign on *Calypso* solely dedicated to the exhibition, as well as an in-depth interview on *Radju Malta*. To reach a broader audience, leaflets were distributed to nearby hotels in Valletta and across all HM sites. The exhibition was also spotlighted in leading magazines such as *Passaggi*, *Universal Air*, *Encore*, and *First*. Engaging reels and banners were featured on major online platforms, as well as Google Ads supported the campaign, together with promotions through local influencers.





'TOPIA' was further enriched by outreach events, including curated walks around Valletta and thought-provoking panel discussions. As the festive season approached, 'TOPIA' ceramics were marketed as an innovative Christmas gift idea, culminating in a one-on-one interview with the artist published



Marketing TOPIA

in the *Times of Malta* in December 2024. This multi-channel approach ensured that the exhibition resonated with diverse audiences, enhancing its impact and reach.

November started with the launch of Tales of Kottonera, a new interactive portal about the Kottonera region that aims to provide an innovative way of exploring the rich history and culture of the three cities of Birgu, Bormla and Isla, as well as Kalkara. The portal, developed by HM in collaboration with Marketlink Ltd, is a treasure trove of resources, historical facts, lesser-known stories, and interesting curiosities about this iconic locality. Its content targets various audiences and ages – from children to tourists and history enthusiasts.



Launching the new interactive portal 'Tales of Kottonera'

JITNIEDA PORTAL INTERATTIV ĠDID DWAR IR-REĠJUN TAL-KOTTONERA



Ġie varat portal interattiv ġdid dwar ir-reġjun tal-Kottonera bil-ghan li jiġi offrut lill-pubbliku mod ġdid ta' kif jespjora l-istorja u l-kultura għanja tat-tlett ibliet tal-Birgu, Bormla u l-Isla, kif ukoll il-Kalkara. L-isem tal-portal interattiv hu 'Tales of Kottonera'.

Il-portal il-ġdid, żviluppat minn Heritage Malta b'kol-laborazzjoni ma' Marketlink Ltd., fih minjiera ta' riżorsi, fatti storiċi, rakkonti inqas magħrufa u kurżitajiet interessanti dwar dawn l-inhawi ikonici. Il-kontenut huwa mfassal għal diversi etajiet u udjenzi – minn tfa'l żgħar sa turisti u diletanti tal-istorja.

Il-Ministru għall-Wirt Nazzjonali, l-Arti u l-Gvern Lokali Owen Bonnici rrimarka, "Dan il-portal il-ġdid jirrifletti d-dedikazzjoni tagħna għall-preservazzjoni kulturali, filwaqt li jiżgura li l-istejjer tal-Kottonera jilhqqu udjenza wiesgħa. Jiċċelebra mhux biss il-meravilji arkitettonici u l-figuri storiċi tar-reġjun, iżda wkoll il-hajja ta' kuljum ta' nies li sawru l-identità ta' Malta matul is-sekli."

Is-Segretarju Parlamentari għall-Gvern Lokali Alison Zerafa Civelli, stqarret li "bit-tnejdja ta' Tales of Kottonera, qed insaħhu r-rabta tagħna ma' dawn iż-żoni sinifikanti u naghmlu l-wirt tagħna aktar aċċessibbli kemm għar-residenti Maltin kif ukoll għall-visitaturi. Dan il-portal huwa eżempju sabih ta' kif it-teknoloġija u l-istejjer jistgħu jingħaqdu flimkien, biex jispiraw lill-ġenerazzjonijiet futuri."

Waqt it-tnejdja tal-portal, il-Kap Eżekuttiv ta' Heritage Malta, Noel Zammit ikkummenta, "B' Tales of Kottonera, l-Aġenzija tkompli tnaqqas id-distakk bejn il-passat u l-preżent, u tagħti l-hajja lill-istejjer vibranti tal-Birgu, l-Isla, Bormla u l-Kalkara għal kull età. Ridna nipprovdru esperjenza interattiva u immersiva li tistieden lil kulhadd jiskopri l-għerqu ta' dawn l-ibliet straordinari, u niċċelebraw il-tradizzjonijiet u r-reżiljenza li jiddefinixxu n-nies tar-reġjun tal-Kottonera."

Għal aktar informazzjoni żur talesofkottonera.com.

November was also the month when HM inaugurated its much-awaited exhibition 'The Cippi of Malta – Their Story and Voyage' at the National Museum of Archaeology in Valletta. After being displayed at the Louvre Abu Dhabi for several months, the two cippi were reunited once again, this time in Malta, where they were separated in 1782 when one of them was gifted to France. Running until the end of March 2025, the exhibition also illuminates ongoing mysteries about the Cippi's origins, as scholars continue to explore when and how they first arrived in Malta.



DOI Pierre Sammut



DOI Pierre Sammut



To amplify the exhibition's visibility and celebrate this historic reunion, extensive marketing efforts were employed. HM collaborated with several leading social media partners, ensuring the exhibition reached both local and international audiences. The Cippi were prominently featured in local and international magazines, enhancing their cultural significance on a global scale. Several TV interviews with Senior Curator Sharon Sultana provided expert insight into the exhibition, further engaging the public with its historical narrative. In the heart of Valletta, the outdoor museum banner was updated to reflect the presence of the cippi within the museum, serving as a visual invitation to visitors. Several strategically placed totems across the city reinforced the exhibition's presence and importance.

Additionally, a vast selection of innovative merchandise was created to serve as collectible items and to commemorate this unique national event. These efforts not only heightened awareness of the exhibition but also offered visitors tangible mementos to celebrate the return of the cippi to their rightful home. Through this robust marketing strategy, HM successfully underscored the cultural and historical significance of the exhibition, making it a landmark event in Malta's heritage calendar.



In November, HM seized the opportunity to leverage the Black Friday enthusiasm among avid shoppers with an exclusive initiative aimed at boosting interest in our membership programme and increasing our member base. For just 24 hours, we offered a 50% discount on our adult and joint memberships, making it more accessible than ever for the public to enjoy the numerous benefits of being part of the HM family.

Membership perks include unlimited access to all HM sites and museums, free entry to exclusive exhibitions, discounted rates for events, and special offers on merchandise. This initiative was strategically promoted through targeted mailshots to our subscribers,

impactful Facebook ads, and a collaboration with Lovin Malta, ensuring wide reach and visibility. The results spoke volumes, with over 300 new memberships secured, highlighting the strong appeal of our offer and the growing interest in Maltese cultural heritage. This successful campaign not only expanded our community of heritage enthusiasts but also reaffirmed the value of our membership program as an engaging way to connect with Malta's rich history and culture.

In the lead-up to the festive season, the HM marketing team launched a Christmas campaign with the tagline, **“Add a Touch of Heritage to Your Christmas”**. The campaign aimed to position HM as an integral part of holiday celebrations, encouraging both locals and tourists to explore its iconic sites. Special emphasis was placed on promoting three major exhibitions in Valletta: ‘TOPIA’ at MUŻA, ‘The Cippi of Malta’ at the National Museum of Archaeology, and ‘Repubblika’ at the Grand Master’s Palace.



The campaign's highlight was the flagship event, **‘Christmas at the Fort’**, held at Fort St Elmo on 30 November and 1 December. The event drew a vibrant crowd, featuring an array of artisanal stalls offering local and seasonal goods. Guests were treated to an engaging program that included historical re-enactments, live entertainment, interactive talks, and workshops. This event was held in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund, raising a total donation of €8,170. HM's presence was particularly notable with its dedicated stand showcasing an exclusive selection of merchandise marketed as unique Christmas gifts. These offerings included HM-branded candles, Taste History hampers, the Taste of Malta selection, HM gift vouchers, Luke Azzopardi's bespoke scarves and jewelry, ‘TOPIA’ ceramics, and HM publications.

The marketing campaign ensured visibility, leveraging HM's platforms and collaborating with media partners such as Lovin Malta. The exclusive gifts were available for purchase at Christmas at the Fort, across several HM sites, and through the online store, making them accessible to a broad audience. By weaving Malta's rich cultural heritage into the festive narrative, this campaign successfully elevated HM's presence during the holidays, while offering innovative ways for people to celebrate the season with a touch of history and tradition.



In December, HM launched a permanent display at the Malta National Aquarium, offering an immersive journey into local underwater sites – ranging from ancient Phoenician shipwrecks to World War II wrecks and war graves. The display, located on the upper floor of the aquarium, enables visitors to dive virtually into the depths of the Mediterranean using cutting-edge technology. Interactive tools, including holograms, allow guests to examine intricate details of submerged artefacts and wrecks, while projections and cinematic presentations provide captivating narratives about these hidden treasures. Artefacts from the national collection are also on display, creating a tangible connection to these underwater marvels.

Designed by HM's Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, the display combines advanced digital tools prepared by the agency's Technology and Experience Development Unit, with engaging storytelling, making the inaccessible accessible. This multi-sensory experience aims to inspire visitors of all ages, fostering a deeper appreciation for Malta's maritime history and highlighting the critical importance of preserving these underwater treasures for future generations.



Permanent display at the Malta National Aquarium



Artefacts at the permanent display at the Malta National Aquarium

In December, it was also announced that the initial phase of restoration works at Villa Portelli had been completed. In this phase, the focus was on the gardens adorning this 19th-century villa in Kalkara, where new life was breathed thanks to a joint collaboration between Project Green and HM. The two agencies embarked on a €3 million project through which the outer gardens have been regenerated, whilst works will continue to restore the villa itself. An interpretation centre on the ground floor of the villa will provide visitors with an educational experience on the historical aspects of the villa and the ongoing restoration process. The grounds of Villa Portelli are now open to the Kalkara community and to the general public on a weekly basis.



For HM, 2024 ended as successfully as it started, again at the Grand Master's Palace, which saw the launch of 'The Republic of Malta: The First Fifty Years, 1974-2024' – an exhibition commemorating five decades of the nation's journey as a republic. Hosted in the Palace's revamped Uccelliera and lasting till the end of March, the exhibition features a rich collection of documents, artefacts and multimedia displays exploring Malta's struggle for self-determination and its achievements as a sovereign state. The exhibition also underscores the pivotal role of the Presidency in safeguarding democracy and fostering unity.

The 'Repubblika' exhibition was extensively promoted across several platforms, ensuring maximum visibility and engagement. HM leveraged its social media portals, website, targeted mailshots, and a collaboration with Lovin Malta to reach a wide audience. Engaging reels highlighting key content from the exhibition were produced to draw interest, and the exhibition was prominently featured on the Inkontru app to further amplify its reach. A crowning moment for 'Repubblika' was its integration into the national celebrations marking 50 years since Malta became a Republic, with the Grand Master's Palace providing a majestic backdrop for these historic festivities. This event not only reinforced the exhibition's relevance but also solidified its place as a key cultural highlight of the year. Adding to the occasion's uniqueness, a special line of merchandise was designed as collectables to commemorate the 50th anniversary. These included coins, postcards, tote bags, and other exclusive items, providing visitors with the opportunity to own a piece of history while celebrating this momentous event. This merchandise was made available at the exhibition, HM sites, and the online store, further enriching the experience for attendees and supporters alike.





Inaugurating the Repubblika exhibition and marking the 50-year anniversary of Malta becoming a Republic





Several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were finalised between HM and other entities during the year in question. Among these agreements, the agency renewed its partnership with Friends of Villa Frere for another five years, allowing the non-governmental organisation to continue administering the villa with HM's support. In May, the agency and Project Green entered into a landmark agreement to rejuvenate the ample green spaces surrounding Villa Portelli in Kalkara. Another MOU was signed between Xjenza Malta and HM, aimed at fostering collaboration to enhance STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and career pathways through the integration of scientific concepts with historical narratives. HM's Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL) signed a significant MOU with Elettra Sincrotrone Trieste. This unprecedented agreement marked the first official collaboration between the two entities, furthering HM's commitment to advancing technology for the preservation and research of its extensive collection.

The year in question saw HM again consolidating its presence abroad through various initiatives, which were duly publicized. Well-deserved promotion was also allocated to the loan of artefacts from the national collection which were displayed in exhibitions abroad, in line with the agency's mission to raise its international profile. To mention but one, during the first quarter of 2024, an 18th-century painting depicting Grand Master Vilhena with pages, sourced from the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta, was exhibited at Spain's Museo Naval de Madrid, through a collaboration with HM. The exhibition, entitled 'The Mark of Jorge Juan - The Legacy of an Enlightened Scientist', marked 250 years since the death of one of the most brilliant sailors in the history of the Spanish Navy, Jorge Juan de Santacilia.

True to its mission to make Malta's cultural heritage as accessible to the public as possible, in 2024 HM organized several open days during which admission to specific museums and sites was free of charge. These included an open day at the Domvs Romana, St Paul's Catacombs, and the National Museum of Natural History in April; an open day at Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum in commemoration of Remembrance Day in November; and free guided tours at the National Museum of Archaeology and the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex to mark the international Tourist Guide Day. Additionally, from August until the end of October, five prominent HM sites were opened with extended hours, allowing the public to experience more of Malta's heritage while longer daylight hours could still be enjoyed. The sites included in this pilot project were the National Museum of Archaeology, Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum, the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park, the Malta Maritime Museum, and Fort St Angelo.

In 2024, HM commissioned Prof. Vincent Marmarà to conduct an in-depth survey aimed at better understanding public perceptions of the national agency. The goal was to gain insight into audience preferences, evaluate public awareness of the agency, and identify areas for improvement in marketing strategies. The findings revealed that 89.6% of respondents were aware of HM as the government agency responsible for the country's heritage sites and museums. When asked what comes to mind when thinking of HM, the most common associations were history (35.5%), museums (15.4%), and buildings (13.2%). However, the data also highlighted lingering public association with the agency's older branding, underscoring the need to further invest in promoting the new logo and reinforcing the updated brand identity.

Respondents were asked how they learned about HM. The top responses were TV (64.5%), followed by word of mouth (39.1%), and social media (35.4%). In terms of communication, respondents highlighted good communication, useful information, efficient service, and a strong team of employees as standout attributes of the agency. The survey also revealed an important insight into local audience behaviour. While locals show a strong tendency to visit cultural and historical sites when traveling abroad, they are less likely to do so domestically. This finding emphasizes the importance of developing targeted campaigns to encourage more engagement with Malta's heritage sites among the local population. The results of this survey provide valuable guidance for shaping HM's future marketing efforts and enhancing its connection with the public.

HM Website Statistics:

- **Users:** 676,779
- **Page Views:** 2,816,143
- **Average time per user:** 2 minutes 09 seconds

User Aquisitions

1. **Organic Search:** 380,908
2. **Direct:** 205,858
3. **Organic Social:** 54,597
4. **Referral:** 41,457
5. **Paid Search:** 1,200

Demographics: data from 580,339 users

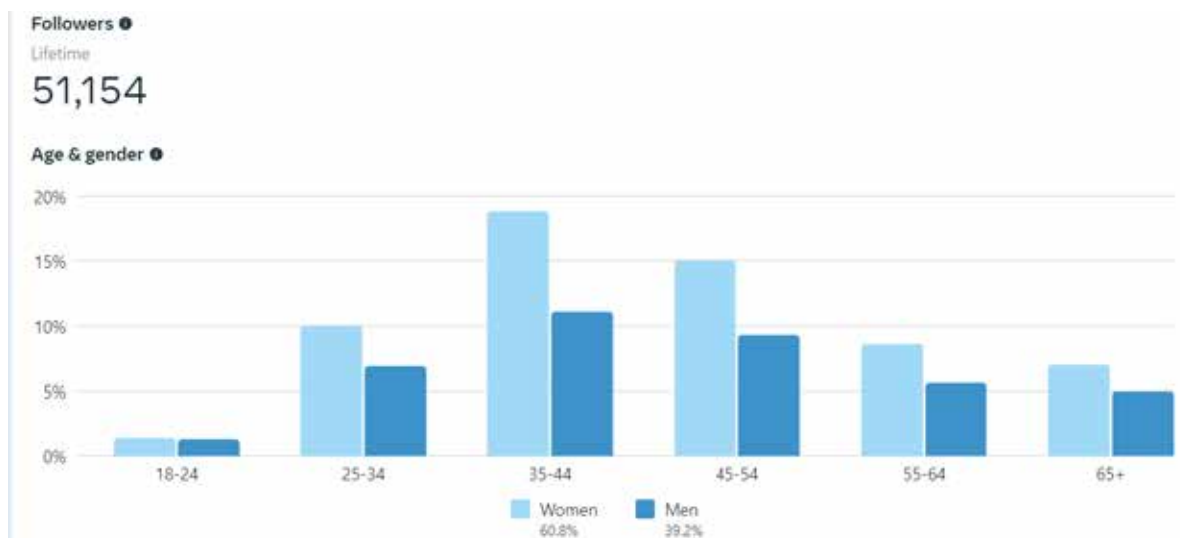
1. **Malta:** 278,199
2. **United Kingdom:** 88,339
3. **United States:** 49,896
4. **Italy:** 32,427
5. **Germany:** 29,492
6. **Poland:** 26,174
7. **France:** 24,158
8. **Spain:** 20,636
9. **Netherlands:** 13,044
10. **Australia:** 12,696

Top ten museum and sites on HM Website (Page views)

1. **Online Store:** 220,874
2. **Hal Saflieni Hypogeum:** 201,953
3. **Main Page:** 196,370
4. **Opening Hours:** 157,146
5. **Hypogeum Tickets:** 144,249
6. **Sites:** 139,323
7. **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park:** 91,205
8. **Underground Valletta:** 90,610
9. **What's On Page:** 87,039
10. **Checkout:** 87,039

Social media statistics – Facebook HM Page:

- **Users Reached:** 515,100
- **Views:** 4,397,131
- **Content Interactions (Likes, shares, comments):** **69,527**
- **Link Clicks:** 49,019
- **Followers:** 51,154
- **Facebook Page Likes:** 44,606
- **New Followers:** 3,418
- **Visits:** 221,628

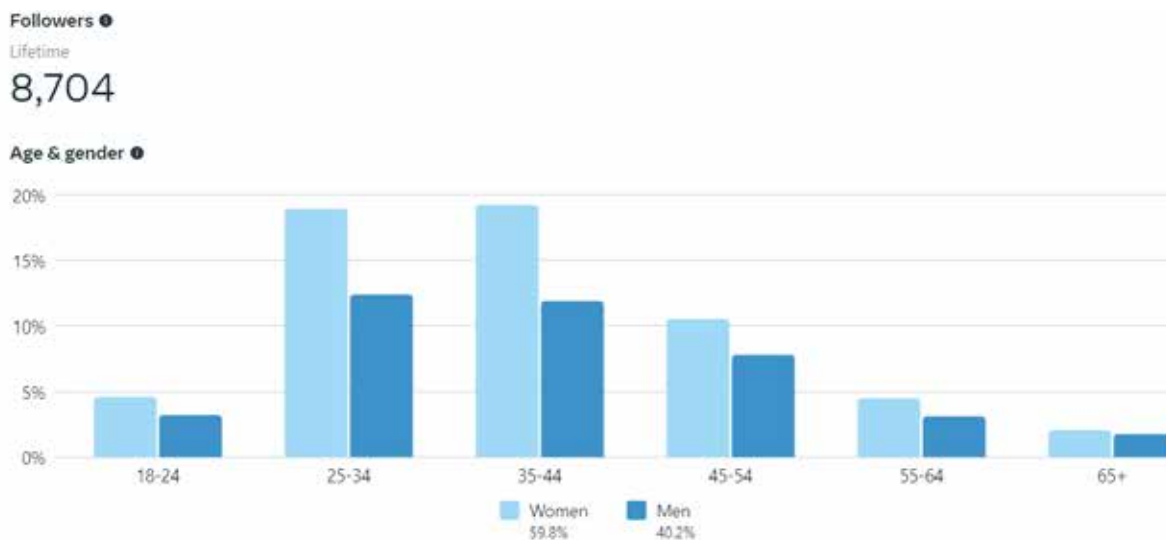


Top 5 Countries (Followers):

1. **Malta** – 74.5%
2. **United Kingdom** – 4.5%
3. **Italy** – 3.7%
4. **Australia** – 2.9%
5. **United States** – 2.4%

Social media statistics – Instagram HM Page:

- **Users Reached:** 132,058
- **Followers:** 8,703
- **Content Interactions (Likes, shares, comments):** 8,500
- **Visits:** 13,882
- **Link Clicks:** 990
- **Views:** 755,851



Top 5 Countries (Followers):

1. **Malta** – 59%
2. **United Kingdom** – 6.4%
3. **Italy** – 4.6%
4. **United States** – 3.3%
5. **Australia** – 2.8%

Watch Time:

- **Non – subscribers:** 95.7%
- **Subscribers:** 4.3%

Social media statistics – LinkedIn Page:

Impressions: 196,195

Organic Clicks: 2,024

Paid Clicks: 900

Organic Reach: 21,044

Reactions: 1,055

Page Views: 4,468

Followers: 2,649

New Followers: 750

Social media statistics – Twitter/X

Followers: 4,285

Social media statistics – TikTok

Followers: 1,077

You Tube HM Channel:

- **Impressions:** 442,059
- **Views:** 89,452
- **Subscribers:** 3,130

Top 5 Countries

1. **Malta** – 36.9%
2. **United Kingdom** – 8.7%
3. **United States** – 7.0%
4. **Poland** – 2.4%
5. **Italy** – 2.0%

From a conventional media perspective, the agency resorted to different ways of conveying its message. A total of 71 press releases were issued, 70 appearances were registered on television programmes or news bulletins, 15 interviews were conducted on radio programmes, 27 articles were published in magazines, 573 articles were published online, and 17 press conferences were held. HM was mentioned in 378 articles in local and foreign newspapers.

The **Technology and Experience Development** (TED) Unit achieved remarkable advancements in IT infrastructure, cultural heritage digitisation, and visitor engagement.

Key achievements include the deployment of transformative systems such as ERP, CMS, and GIS, improving operations in collections management, strategic planning, and asset handling. The Digitisation Unit has refined methodologies to meet top European quality standards, ensuring the preservation and accessibility of cultural assets for future generations. The Unit also developed its first in-house VR game, advancing gamification in heritage experiences.

The TED Unit focused on strengthening IT infrastructure and data security to protect operational systems and the digitised cultural heritage assets that we are responsible for. This included upgrades to cybersecurity measures, disaster recovery systems, and network infrastructure to ensure operational continuity and compliance with international standards.

ISO 9001 certification was maintained for Quality Management, confirming adherence to high standards in resource management and workflows. ISO 27001 compliance for Information Security Management progressed from 21% in April to 73% in November, as verified by internal audits. Achieving full compliance requires further upgrades to server rooms and finalising policies, with an external audit planned for 2025.

43 vulnerabilities were identified through vulnerability scanning and penetration testing. This led to the restructuring of the Active Directory following Microsoft's 3-Tier approach, currently at 10% compliance, but with substantial improvements anticipated as the restructuring progresses. Firewalls were installed across 24 sites to mitigate risks, and planning began for a secondary Internet Service Provider to enhance redundancy.

Outdated network equipment was replaced, with 54 access switches and four core switches upgraded at nine sites. Some locations transitioned from Megabit to Gigabit speeds, and uplinks were upgraded to support 10G, with provisions for 25G in the future. Guest Wi-Fi using Wi-Fi 6 technology was installed at reception areas, with plans to expand coverage throughout all museums and offices.

A second Storage Area Network (SAN) and Network Attached Storage (NAS) were procured to replicate primary systems, enhancing disaster recovery capabilities. The ticket server received upgrades for improved performance and security. The data centre was designed with a modular 30 kW power capacity, expandable to 60 kW, and advanced cooling systems. Environmental safety features include an argon gas fire suppression system and dual air conditioning systems. Fibre-optic connectivity and raised-floor cabinets ensure efficient operations and scalability to support future needs.

A flagship initiative was the procurement and planning of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. Awarded to Oracle and implemented by PWC Digital, the ERP system will unify payroll, ticketing, HR, and asset management functions. The scoping phase involved a detailed review of current operations, identifying gaps, and proposing streamlined workflows. Key improvements include overhauling the Chart of Accounts, enhancing procurement processes, and integrating advanced features such as Optical Character Recognition (OCR) for invoices. The ERP will also feature

dashboards for real-time insights and data reporting. These foundational activities have prepared the agency for implementation in 2025, which aims to transform internal workflows and improve operational efficiency.

The employee attendance system was also upgraded by installing contactless punch clocks featuring biometric technologies such as facial recognition, palm vein scanning, and RFID. These systems improve attendance accuracy and streamline payroll integration. The rollout across 22 sites was completed in three months. By integrating with payroll systems, this upgrade supports the broader ERP initiative by consolidating hardware and software into a unified system.

Development began on Geographic Information System (GIS) dashboards to enhance data visualisation and operational insights. The first dashboard integrates with ticketing software, providing real-time business intelligence on visitor demographics and site performance. Completed in four weeks, this project has demonstrated the value of GIS in data-driven decision-making.

Several key projects were successfully executed to enhance operations and strengthen IT support systems. IT infrastructure for the Malta Biennale was provided for the first time, integrating nine new sites into the network. This involved planning and deploying robust systems to meet the demands of ticketing, access control, and digital installations for artists. A reform of CCTV security systems was also initiated. A comprehensive survey and financial study informed a three-year implementation plan. New CCTV systems were installed at key heritage sites, including Fort St Elmo and Ġgantija, with further upgrades planned for 2025.

Automated self-service kiosks were introduced at the Grand Master's Palace. Following successful testing, a tender was issued for 16 additional kiosks to improve visitor experience and streamline operations across the network. The ticketing system infrastructure was migrated to a virtualised server, enhancing performance and reliability while preparing for future upgrades. In 2024, the TED Unit managed 3,527 support tickets, ensuring timely resolution and operational continuity, monitored under ISO service charters.

With respect to Experience Development, the Unit has significantly contributed to enhancing visitor engagement through various initiatives, integrating advanced technologies. These include contributions to various exhibitions such as 'An Island at the Crossroads' exhibition at the Malta Maritime Museum, featuring projections, AI-driven stations, and a multisensory journey, the Malta Biennale 2024 and Clean Oceans Conference, attended by UNESCO and EU representatives. A life-sized Bofors gun replica integrated with a 3D game was developed as a centrepiece for *TechXPO* and will become a permanent exhibit at Fort St Elmo. Additionally, the unit introduced its first in-house built hologram machine, now part of the Malta Aquarium experience.

Two key systems were also introduced: the Asset Management System (AMS) tracks AV equipment, optimising resources and reducing costs. Linked to storage, it ensures real-time equipment availability and supports event planning. The Multimedia Remote Management System centralises digital signage updates across all sites, enabling real-time content changes, improving efficiency, and enhancing visitor engagement.

With respect to digital acquisition, efforts focused on long-term quality and sustainability, moving beyond simply maximising the number of digitised assets. The aim was to ensure that digital outputs meet international standards, remain future-proof, and are compatible with evolving technologies. Initiatives such as Malta's signing of the cooperation agreement to digitise at-risk cultural heritage and collaborations with UNESCO supported this transition.

Paradata, a growing concept in cultural heritage digitisation, involves documenting acquisition processes and post-production workflows. This ensures the quality, accuracy, and longevity of digital assets. This year we developed a tailored paradata system, supported by collaborations such as the Erasmus+ exchange programme and participation in EuroMed 2024. This system integrates with HM's CMS and aligns with emerging international standards.

Major digitisation projects this year included large-scale initiatives such as the STEĆCI project in Bosnia, Montenegro, and Austria, which involved scanning historic sites. These complex projects required innovative acquisition methodologies, including LiDAR, terrestrial and aerial photogrammetry, and GIS-referenced RTK systems. The TED Unit also introduced a JIRA-based system to improve project planning, collecting metadata in advance to streamline scanning sessions. These collaborations have led to the development and iteration of a new system for paradata collection, which is currently undergoing testing. This system is a custom solution tailored to our specific needs, offering both field practicality and seamless integration with our existing CMS infrastructure, leading to the concept of the 'Memory Twin' in 3D digitisation.

We refined our scanning methods to address the challenges of large-scale projects. LiDAR was used to produce highly detailed meshes, while photogrammetry added rich textures to 3D models. GIS-referencing allows data from different techniques to be aligned into cohesive models, enabling precise documentation and analysis. Notable digitisation projects included:

- Hypogeum Oracle Room: LiDAR and photogrammetry scans documented the red ochre markings, providing critical conservation data.
- Delimara Survey: Drone photogrammetry and LiDAR scans informed updated CAD plans for restoration work.
- Haġar Qim: Over 12,000 images and LiDAR scans were captured for the Japan Expo, representing one of the most extensive datasets processed this year.

Additionally, smaller-scale projects demonstrated the versatility of digitisation techniques. For example, the *Roger I coin*, one of the smallest objects scanned, highlighted the Unit's ability to handle diverse artefacts with precision.

Digital tools were used to enhance public engagement and education. Key projects included:

- Touchscreen Adaptations: An educational book was converted into an interactive touchscreen display for the Gozo Nature Museum, designed to engage younger audiences.
- VR experiences were developed for underwater heritage sites like *Southwold Stern* and *Southwold Bow* while updating older tours, such as the *Schnellboot*. These were complemented by newly acquired VR headsets, providing immersive educational opportunities.

- Clean Oceans Conference: The team showcased animations of the *Dghajjes tal-Pass*, highlighting the role of digital preservation in marine conservation.
- Fortress Malta XR Game: Developed in Unreal Engine with a WWII-era Bofors gun controller, this game debuted at TechXPO 2024 and will be installed at Fort St Elmo.
- A 360-degree VR tour of the Grand Master's Palace was presented at World Europe Day in Brussels. This initiative captivated thousands of visitors and demonstrated the transformative potential of virtual reality in cultural heritage.

In collaboration with the conservation and curatorial departments, we published a paper on the Tarxien Bowl project. This groundbreaking effort involved laser scanning, virtual reassembly, and the eventual restoration of a prehistoric artefact to its original site. By digitising each of the bowl's 55 components, the team ensured precision during reconstruction and minimised the risk of damage. The project marked the first time such a technique was used by HM and highlighted the importance of digital tools in conservation research.

Digitising the National Collection continued, balancing ambitious projects with improved methodologies. Highlights included:

- Villa Portelli: Sculptures and architectural elements were documented using advanced 3D scanning to support conservation efforts.
- Bigħi: A detailed survey using LiDAR produced a comprehensive point cloud of the site, aiding restoration work.
- Dghajjes tal-pass: Two boats, including the *Pasali*, were scanned and animated to showcase their craftsmanship.
- Gozo statue fragments: Approximately 30 fragments were digitised, providing data for planned conservation projects in 2025.
- Cippus reconstruction: The artifact was scanned and prepared for 3D printing, creating accurate replicas for educational use.

2D scanning also played a significant role. The Unit completed 20,000 scans for the Water Services Corporation project and digitised historical records from the Lands Department, the Maritime Museum, and Inquisitor's Palace. High-resolution scans of paintings were provided to the Conservation Department for analysis and monitoring. 6.6 Virtual Platform Development: The TED Unit began laying the groundwork for a virtual exhibition platform to host HM's future exhibitions. Eight 360-degree tours of current exhibitions were documented, including 'Betrayal and Vengeance', 'Trades of Fate', and 'Fare Convito'. This platform will provide an accessible and engaging space for audiences to explore Malta's cultural heritage.

7.0 Audio-Visual (AV) Production: Videography & Photography: The AV Unit at HM has been instrumental in documenting the agency's initiatives, creating high-quality visual records for internal use, public engagement, and future exhibitions. The unit has enhanced its capacity with new equipment and expanded its team to deliver on its wide-ranging responsibilities. Through its meticulous documentation and creative output, the AV Unit ensured the preservation and accessibility of Malta's cultural milestones. By supporting exhibitions, conservation, and outreach, the AV Unit continues to enhance HM's mission to safeguard and share the nation's cultural heritage.

The AV Unit played a crucial role in visually documenting HM's major exhibitions and events, ensuring high-quality multimedia content for both archival purposes and future integration into the planned virtual exhibition platform. Key projects included the exhibitions 'An Island at the Crossroads', 'TOPIA', 'Betrayal and Vengeance' and the 'Republic 50th anniversary'. Notably, the unit documented the arrival and restoration of a Commonwealth Fashion Exchange dress by Charles and Ron, donated to the national collection. The AV team captured its journey from arrival to exhibition at the Inquisitor's Palace, celebrating this addition to Malta's cultural legacy. Similarly, the 'Threads of Faith' exhibition, showcasing centuries-old liturgical vestments, benefited from detailed coverage of restoration processes and the exhibition itself, underscoring the craftsmanship and significance of these artefacts. The AV Unit supported numerous events, including the *Documenting Museums and Private Collections Using Digital Tools* seminar, the Public Service Week, and the Royal Visit by the Duke of Edinburgh, in collaboration with the British High Commission. The AV Unit also provided extensive coverage of ongoing restoration work at major HM sites, including Villa Guardamangia, Villa Portelli, and the Grand Master's Palace.

The AV Unit provided critical documentation for other projects, including the Bidnija excavation and oral history initiatives, the recording of personal memories linked to the Hypogeum and other key locations. The Dockyard Project featured hundreds of oral histories from former dockyard workers and the Dockyard Talks series, preserving intangible heritage and providing a voice to Malta's industrial past.

Photography remained a primary documentation method, supporting exhibitions, restoration efforts, and historical research. Key achievements included the Documentation of over 2,000 objects at MUŻA, details of ship graffiti by Reflectance Transformation Imaging (RTI) for the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit, and general exhibition and event coverage.

The **Collections Management System (CMS)** solidified its role as a core part of HM's infrastructure. Based on Gallery Systems' TMS software, the CMS has evolved into a critical tool that integrates workflows across multiple departments, including curatorial, collections management, registry, marketing, and publishing. With onboarding of conservation and exhibitions departments planned for 2025, TMS will become a centralised platform for managing Malta's national collection. TMS Collections serves as the backbone of the CMS, hosting the central catalogue of Malta's national collection. It enables object tracking, location management, and rights control. Collaborative efforts by curatorial teams from the Malta Maritime Museum, MUŻA, and Gozo Museum resulted in the development of an agency-wide cataloguing manual, aligning HM's practices with international standards such as Dublin Core, CIDOC-CRM, and Spectrum 5.1. This manual will standardise object descriptions across all HM museums. Approximately 1,700 object records and 6,000 associated images were uploaded to TMS Collections. This process has streamlined inventory management and improved oversight of the national collection. With migration workflows now optimised and the cataloguing manual in place, a significant increase in record ingestion is anticipated in 2025.

TMS Media Studio is the digital asset management system (DAMS) component of the CMS, providing secure storage for HM's extensive collection of digital assets, including photographs, videos, and 3D objects. Replacing the previous Fotoware DAMS system, Media Studio is tightly integrated with TMS Collections, enabling seamless linking of visual assets to object records. Over 30,000 high-resolution

images of collection objects captured by the Digitisation Unit in the past four years have been loaded into Media Studio, alongside 20,000 event-related images spanning two decades. A review of intellectual property rights for digital assets began in late 2024, paving the way for a more open digital media policy in 2025.

eMuseum is the public-facing portal for HM's collections. Scheduled for launch in early 2025, it will provide digital access to the national collection for the first time. Initially featuring 900 objects from the Malta Maritime Museum, the platform offers detailed catalogue descriptions and photographs, allowing users to search across museum collections. Integration with Europeana will expand the visibility of HM's collections globally. Through an API, HM's data and media assets will be shared alongside prestigious institutions such as the Louvre and the British Museum, placing Malta's heritage on an international stage.

The unit significantly expanded its participation in European-funded initiatives, strengthening its role as a leader in cultural heritage digitisation and preservation. By actively engaging in Horizon Europe, EEA Norway Grants, Erasmus+, and other programmes, we secured vital funding, fostered international collaboration, and demonstrated Malta's commitment to utilising advanced technologies for safeguarding cultural heritage. These efforts are pivotal to achieving Malta's national digitisation goals and enhancing its global reputation.

We are currently involved in four Horizon Europe projects — ENIGMA, STEĆCI, IMPULSE, and HERITALISE — which together secured €1.1 million in grants, including €750,000 allocated for staffing. These initiatives support Malta's 2030 pledge to digitise endangered cultural heritage and have enhanced the TED Unit's expertise and resources.

- ENIGMA addresses threats to cultural heritage such as theft and neglect, using AI tools for provenance research and authenticity verification. HM contributed 179 artefact images, including ethnographic and fragmented items, to train AI models. Workshops with Geneva University's MIRALab refined methodologies, ensuring robust applications for safeguarding artefacts.
- STEĆCI focused on preserving medieval tombstones threatened by climate change, this project involved HM conducting digitisation missions in Montenegro and Bosnia in 2024. Using LiDAR, photogrammetry, drones, and RTI, the team created high-quality 3D models that inform preservation strategies and public engagement tools, such as interactive games and 3D walkthroughs planned for 2025.
- IMPULSE leverages XR technologies to make cultural heritage more interactive and accessible. HM is developing methods to connect diverse artefacts, crafting engaging narratives for museums and educational contexts to foster a deeper understanding of heritage.
- HERITALISE combines cutting-edge digital tools with restoration efforts, focusing on Villa Portelli, where GeoHBIM digitisation, a virtual museum, and an AI-powered assistant are being developed to enhance visitor exploration and education.

The Clean Oceans initiative, in collaboration with Norway's Stavanger Maritime Museum, addresses the preservation of marine heritage and environmental conservation. Funded by EEA Norway Grants, this project highlights the threats of pollution and climate change on maritime cultural assets. At the *Clean Oceans and Mapping Our Seas* conference, HM presented its 3D digitisation efforts to over

600 attendees, while online campaigns reached 650,000 people. Workshops linked to the 'An Island at the Crossroads' exhibition engaged more than 20 schools, fostering awareness of marine conservation and cultural heritage. Due to its success, the programme was extended to 2025 to accommodate further educational demand.

The DIGIsCan Project, supported by Erasmus+, enhances the TED Unit's 3D digitisation skills for preserving tangible and intangible heritage. HM staff participated in EuroMed 2024 and later undertook job-shadowing at Cyprus University of Technology, where they digitised the historic Panagia Aimatousa Church. This practical experience advanced the team's capabilities, equipping them to tackle complex digitisation projects in Malta with greater precision and efficiency. Other proposals are under review, with results anticipated in 2025.

HM also contributes to the European Commission's Expert Group on a Common European Data Space for Cultural Heritage (CDECHE). Malta actively shapes policies and standards for preserving and sharing cultural heritage across Europe. CDECHE's vision is to establish a unified digital infrastructure that integrates data from diverse heritage institutions. The group focuses on adopting advanced technologies, such as 3D modelling and AI-driven curation, to enhance data preservation, accessibility, and interoperability. HM's expertise in 3D digitisation, particularly its creation of high-resolution models of artefacts and sites, has positioned it as a key contributor to this mission. In addition to technical innovations, Malta participates in CDECHE's working groups addressing policy, funding, and training challenges. This holistic involvement ensures the sustainability and inclusivity of Europe's digital heritage transformation. By engaging in workshops and collaborative projects, HM benefits from knowledge-sharing opportunities that reinforce its leadership in digitisation while aligning its efforts with EU objectives.

The European Commission's *Twin It!* campaign encourages the creation and sharing of 3D models of cultural landmarks to ensure their preservation and accessibility. HM became the first country to submit a model, digitising the Gozo Ċittadella. The 3D model, praised for its precision and historical value, captures the architectural and cultural legacy of the Ċittadella. This achievement demonstrates how advanced technologies like photogrammetry and LiDAR can elevate heritage preservation. Beyond technical success, the model highlights the transformative potential of 3D digitisation for education, tourism, and research. Through the *Twin It!* campaign, HM has increased its visibility within Europe's cultural heritage network. The TED Unit continues to advocate for 3D digitisation as a vital tool for preserving and sharing heritage, setting a benchmark for future projects across Europe.

In 2024, HM was appointed Malta's national aggregator for Europeana, a platform hosting over 60 million cultural heritage objects. As aggregator, HM assists local organisations in structuring and sharing their collections, significantly expanding Malta's cultural reach. The eMuseum platform underpins this role, automating data sharing with Europeana and ensuring consistency. HM aims to achieve accreditation as a national aggregator in 2025, enabling local institutions to contribute their collections to this global portal. Europeana receives over 6 million annual visitors and generates 620 million social media impressions, offering unparalleled exposure for Malta's heritage. HM's involvement enhances its ability to foster collaboration and innovation in cultural heritage management. By integrating its collections with Europeana, the agency underscores its commitment to making Malta's history accessible to global audiences while supporting digitisation efforts nationwide.



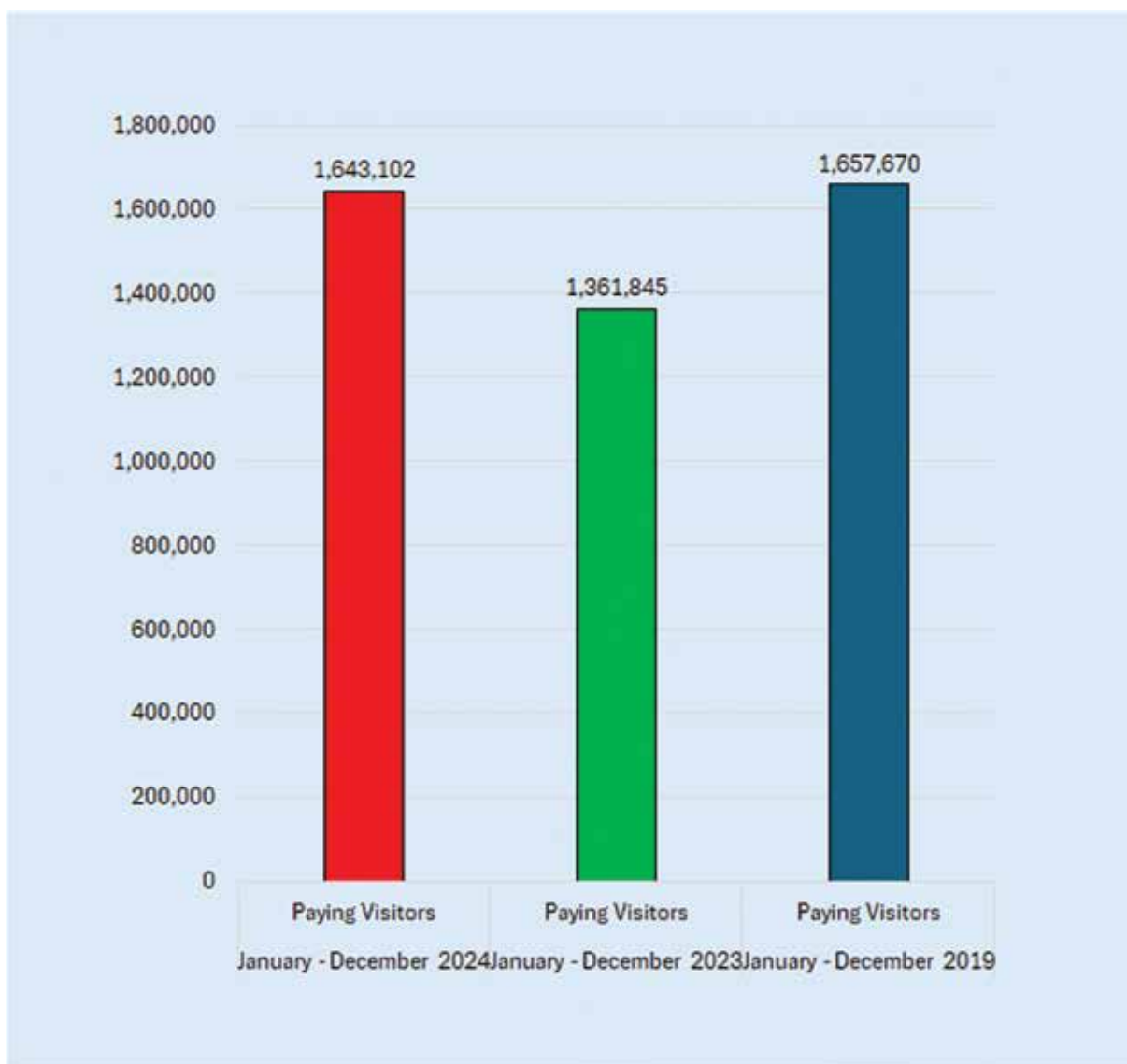
19th century milestones

VISITOR & REVENUE STATISTICS

General overview

Paying visitors

In 2024, HM museums lured over 1.6 million paying visitors. These results also coincided with unprecedented increase in inbound tourism,¹ which from January to December increased by 19.5%. The number of paying admissions stood at 1,643,102. Compared to 2019, the aggregate paying admissions decreased nominally by -0.87%. However, when the same figures are compared with the previous year, the number of paying admissions soared by 281,257 visitors. Refer to graph 1.

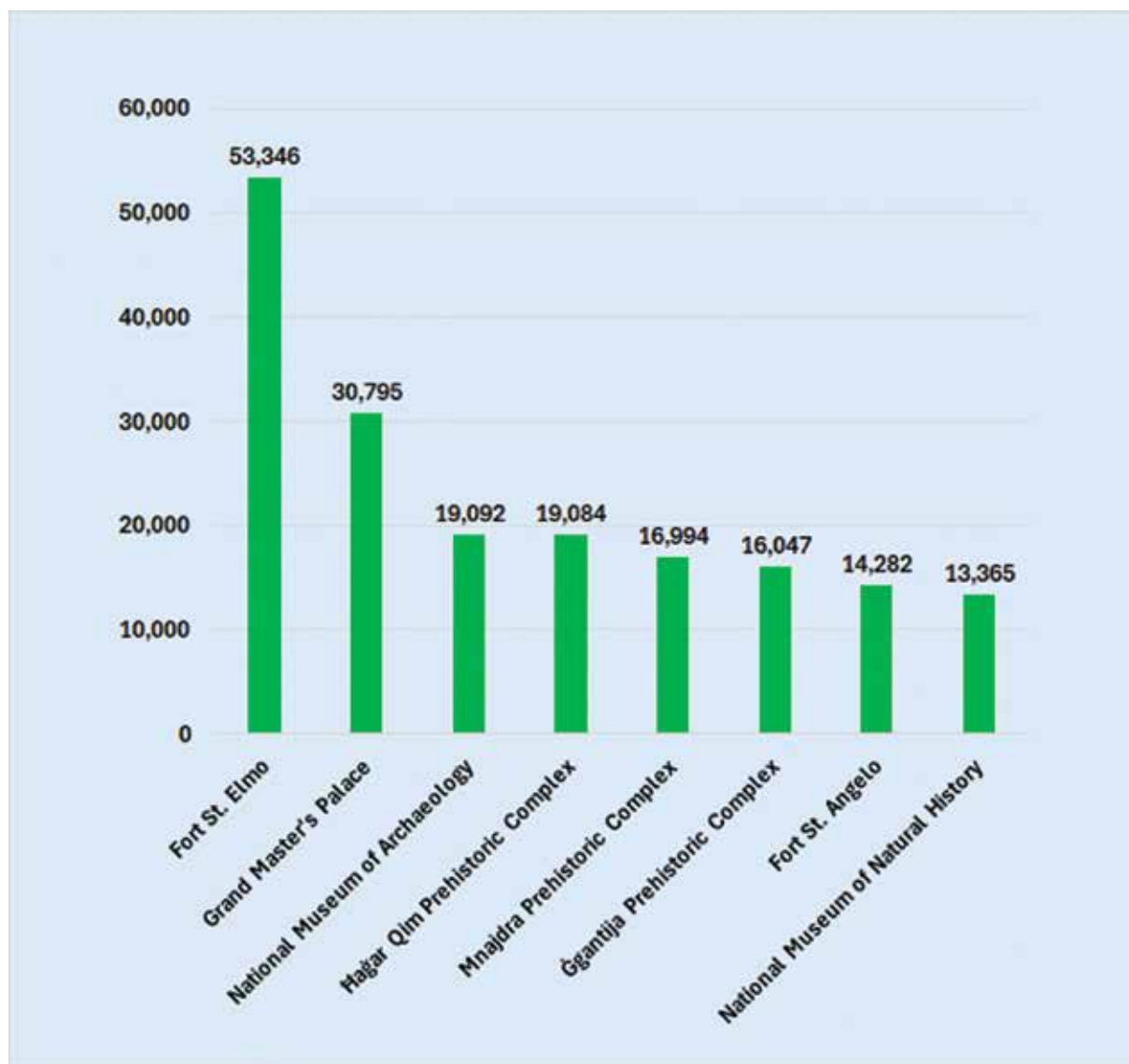


Graph 1: Paying admissions 2024 vs 2023 vs 2019

¹ NSO Press Release – 12th February 2025.

The major contributors

At first glance, the larger sites contributed positively towards these satisfactory results. Fort St Elmo achieved a staggering increase of over 53,000 visitors, followed by the Grand Master's Palace with an average increase of 30,000 visitors. Haġar Qim and Mnajdra recorded a total increase of 36,000 visitors. The National Museum of Archaeology lured 19,000 visitors more compared to 2019, whereas Ġgantija increased its paying admission by more than 16,000 visitors. Significant results were also noted at Fort St Angelo and the National Museum of Natural History. Refer to graph 2.



Graph 2: Changes in the number of paying visitors between 2024 and 2019

Non-paying visitors

Compared to the previous year, the number of non-paying visitors decreased by -3.5%. Matched with pre-Covid levels, non-paying admissions plunged from 222,544 in 2019 to 134,712 in 2023, stabilising in the levels 130,113 in 2024. Refer to graph 3. This year, more than 32,000 visits emanated from the use of the student passport scheme, while visits through the use of the senior passports scheme amounted to 17,421.

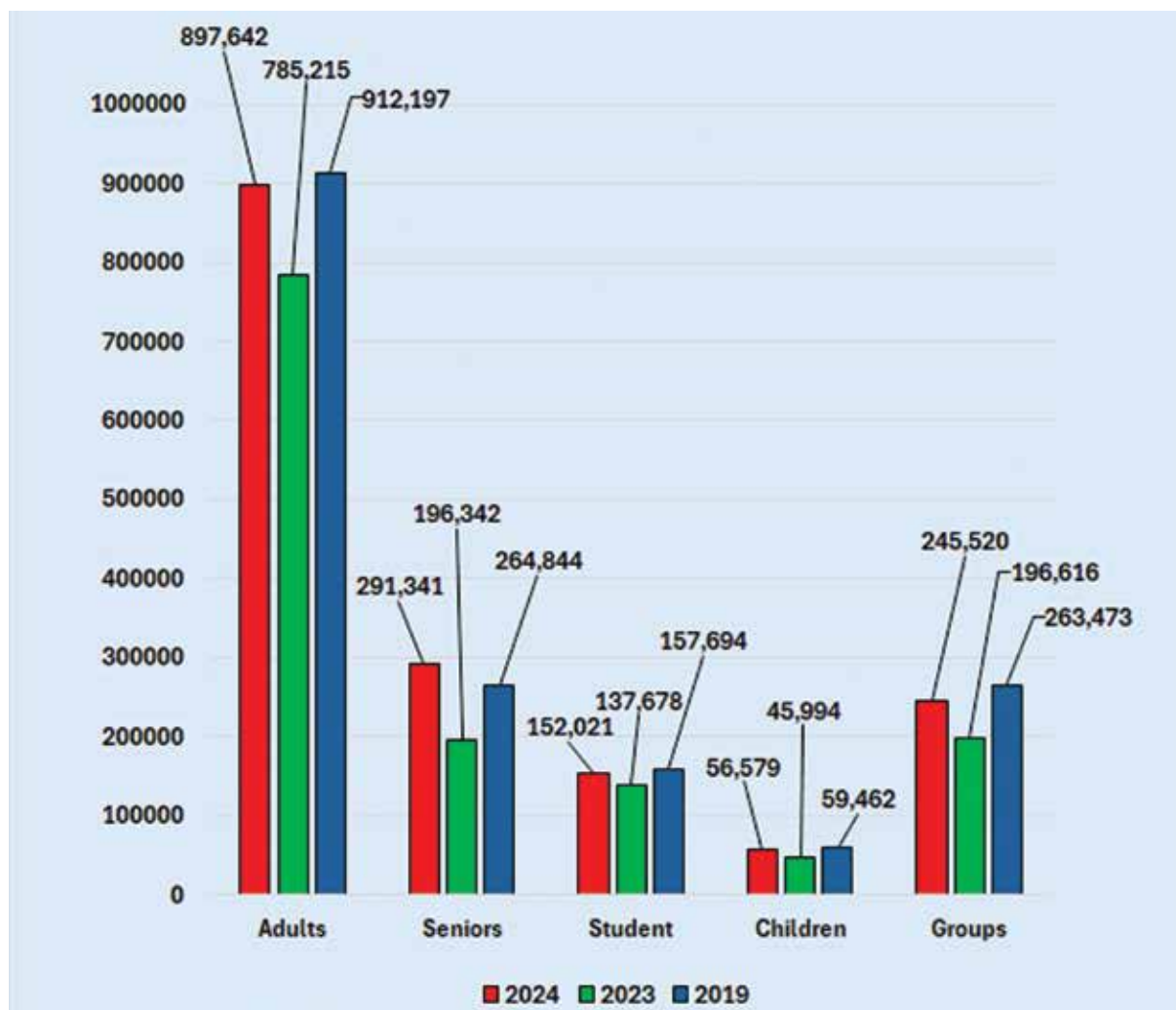


Graph 3: Non-paying visitors 2024 vs 2023 vs 2019

Market Segmentation (2024 vs 2023 vs 2019): Individual and tour operator admissions

Equated with 2023, the entire market segments of paying admissions soared by an average of 24%. A stunning increase of 48% has been noted in the number of senior admissions. During the same period, an increase of 25 % was noted across group entries. The adult segment expanded by 14%. The students and the child categories registered an increase of 10% and 23% respectively.

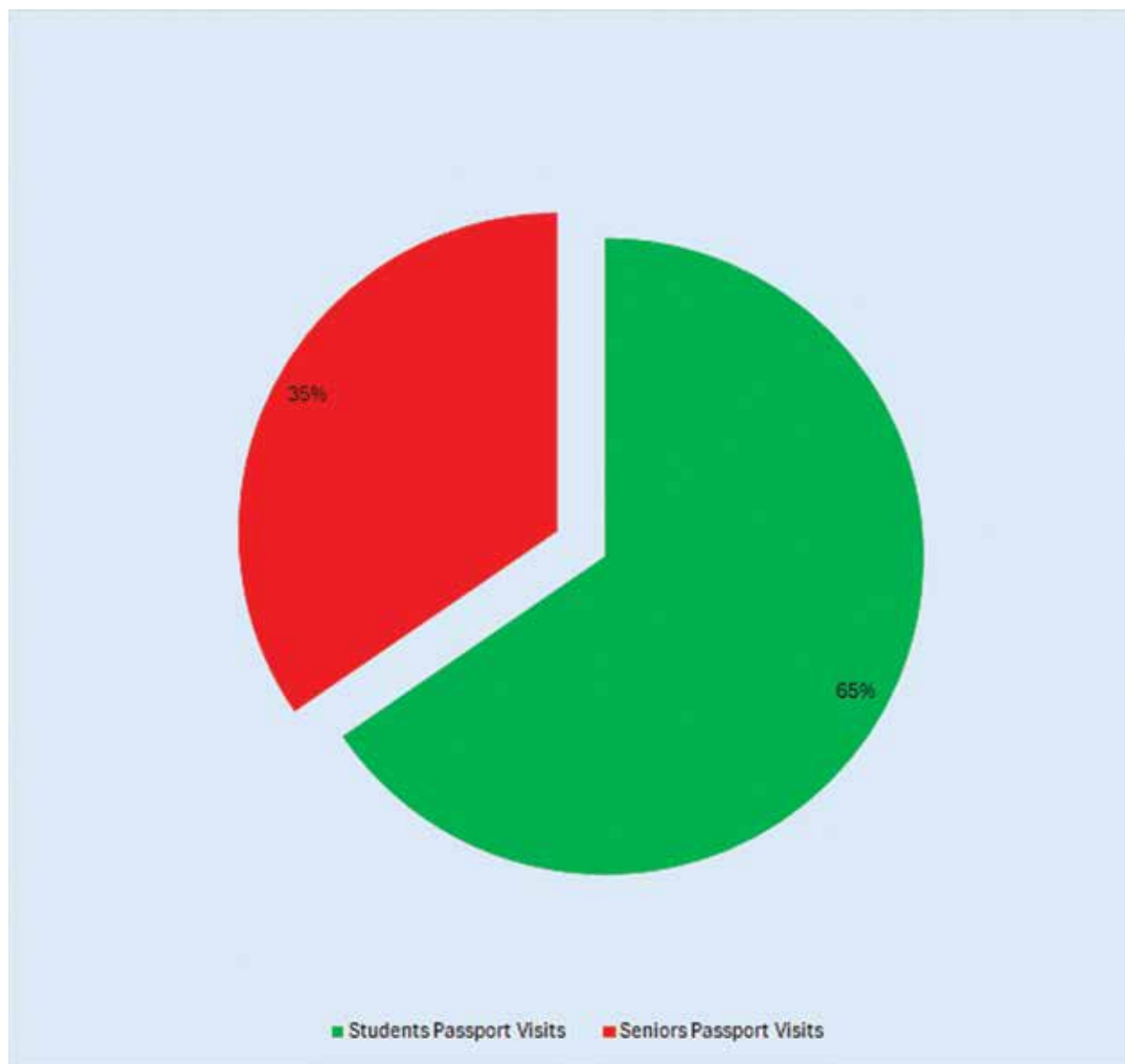
On average all market segments have converged with 2019 levels, resulting in a trivial decrease of -1.37%. Negative performances were logged in the adult and student categories, -2% and -4% respectively. Meanwhile the segment of children and groups sustained losses of -5% and -7% respectively. Contrastingly, the senior segment saw an increase of 10% when compared with pre-pandemic figures. Refer to graph 4.



Graph 4: Paying admissions segmented into five main categories 2024 vs 2023 vs 2019

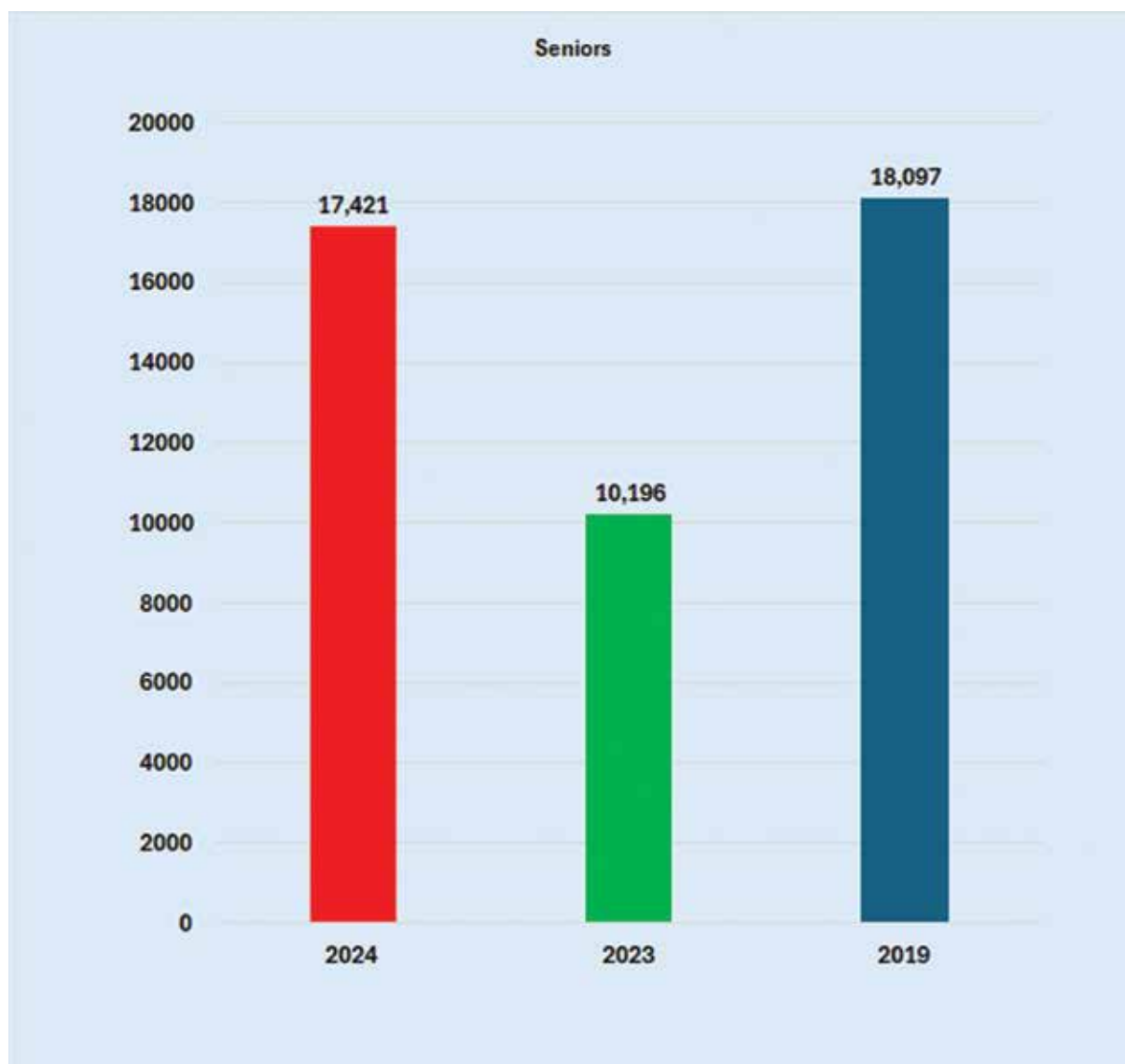
The passport schemes

As of 31 December, both the student and senior passport schemes attracted a total of 50,384 visitors. 35% emanated from the use of senior passport, while 65% originated from the students' passport scheme. In numeric terms, visitors using the students' passport amounted to 32,963, while the seniors' passports holders totalled 17,421. Refer to graph 5.

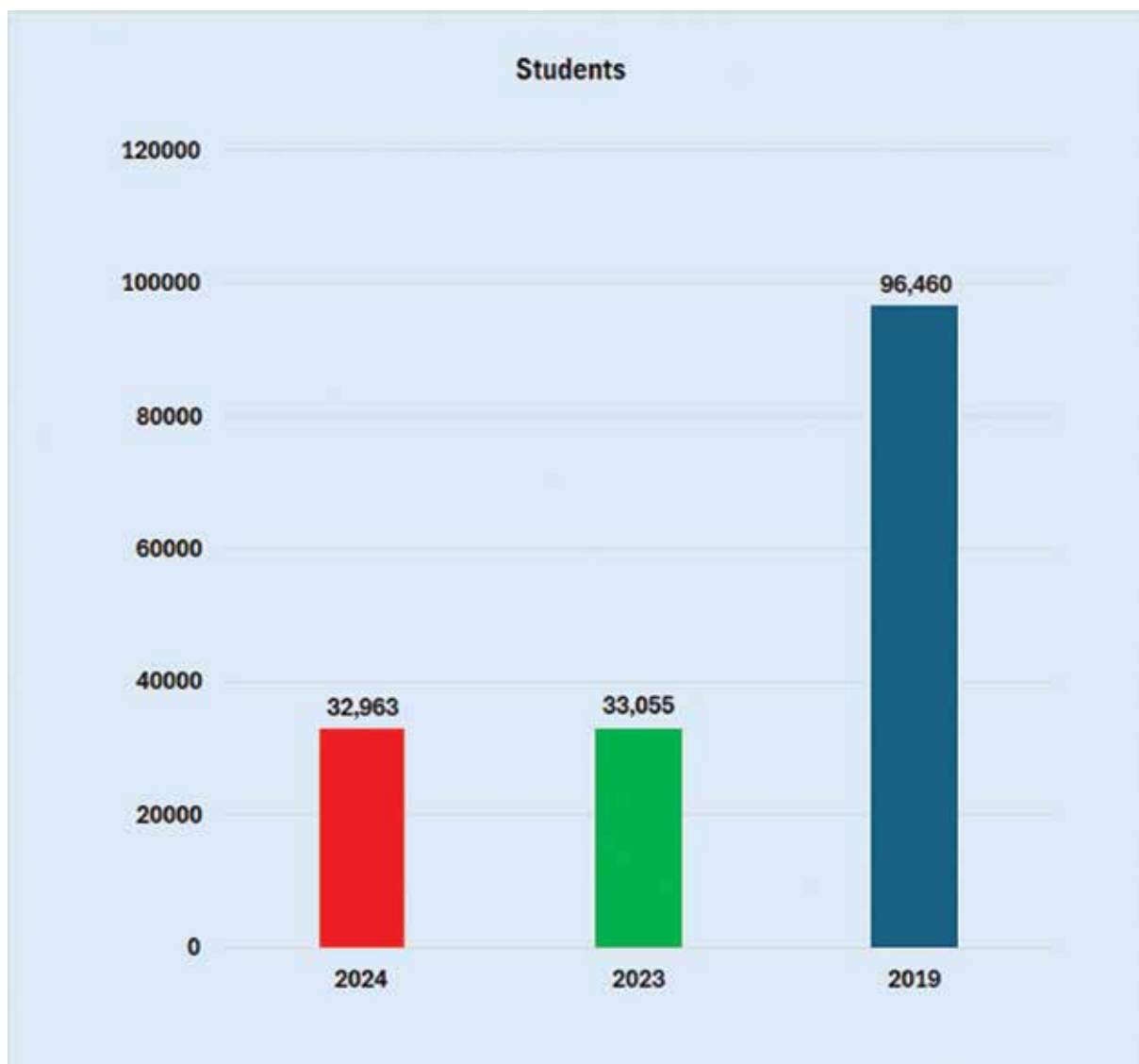


Graph 5: Share of visits split by attribution to the Student Passport and Senior Passport schemes – 2024

Official figures show that visits from both schemes normalised to their natural levels. In the first year of operation, both schemes lured over 114,000 visits. In 2024 the students' passports visits declined by -65% compared with 2019. Meanwhile, the number of visits using the senior passport decreased by -3%. In 2023, both schemes reached a total 43,251 visits. Refer to graphs 6 & 7.



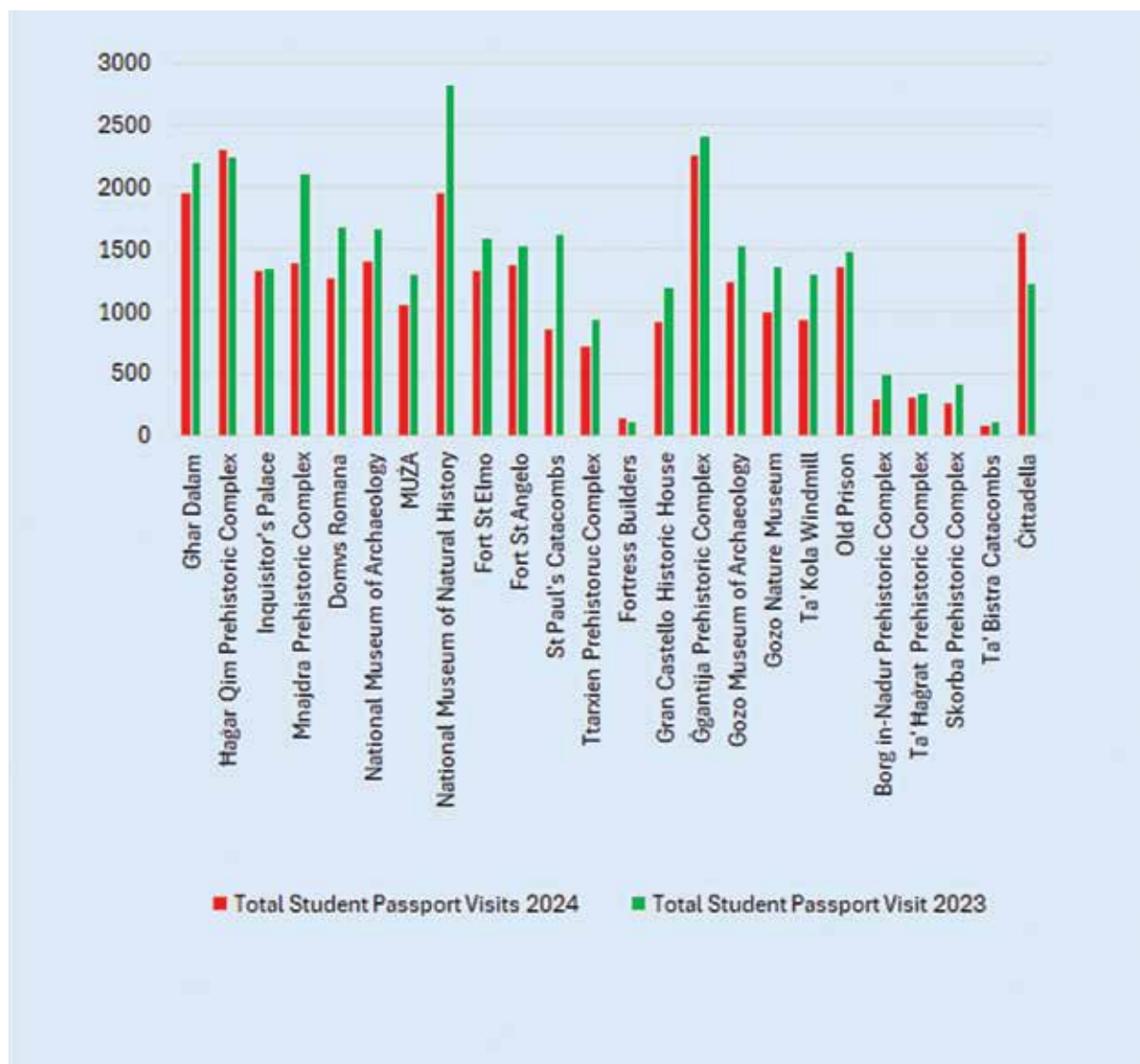
Graph 6: The number of visits through the senior the student scheme, 2024 vs 2023 vs 2019



Graph 7: The number of walk-ins through passport scheme, 2024 vs 2023 vs 2019

The student passport scheme

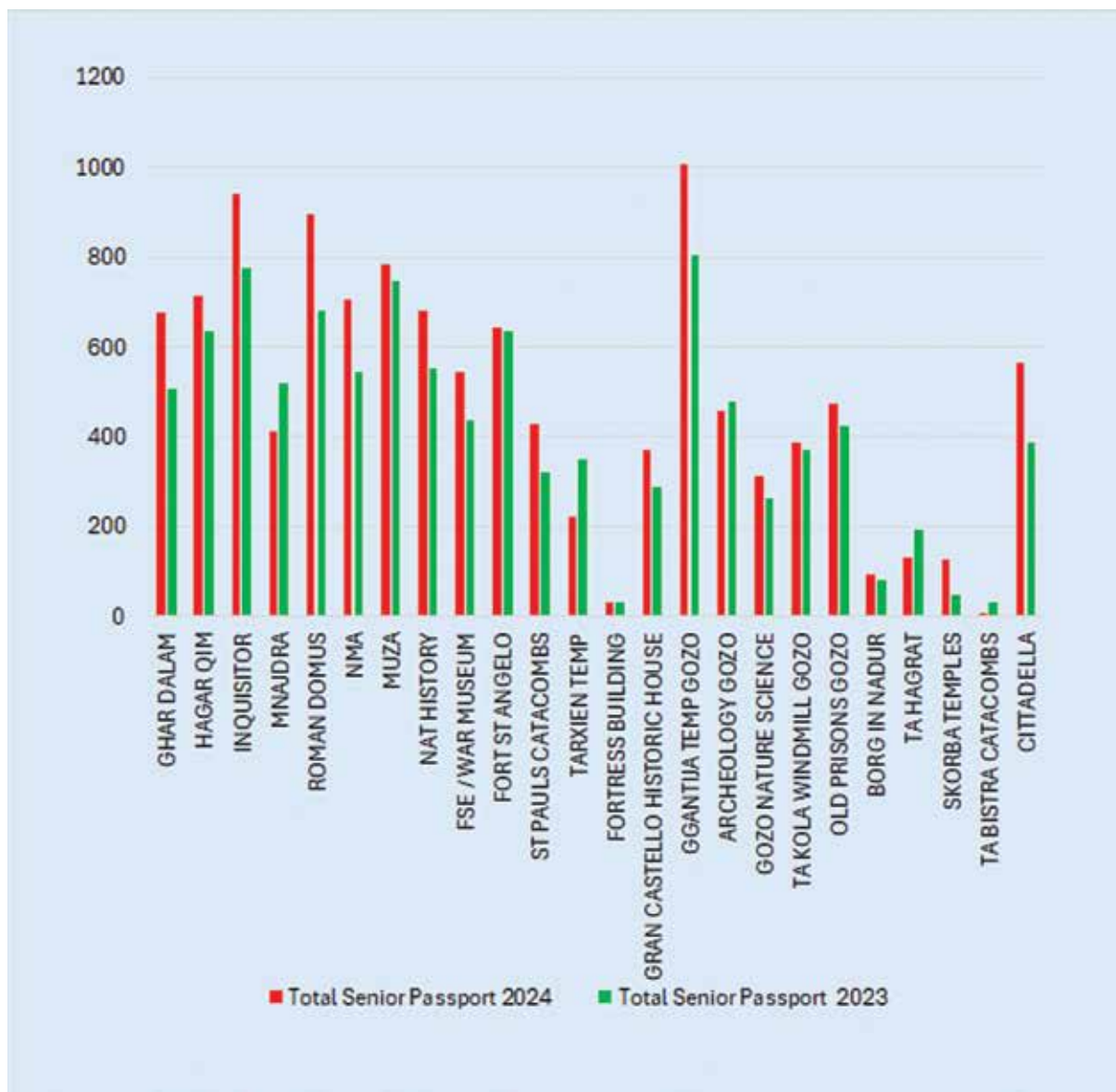
In 2024, a total of 32,963 visits emanated from the students' passport scheme. The Grand Master's Palace, the Malta Maritime Museum, Haġar Qim, Ġgantija and Għar Dalam ranked as the five most popular sites among student passport holders. Nearly 3,000 students visited the Grand Master's Palace. Both the visitor centre of the Ċittadella and the Fortress Builders saw a double-digit increase (percentagewise) over last year. Compared with last year, most sites registered a decrease in visitors except for Haġar Qim, which logged an increase of 2%. Refer to graph 8.



Graph 8: The number of student visits using the student passport scheme in 2024 & 2023 per site

The senior passport scheme

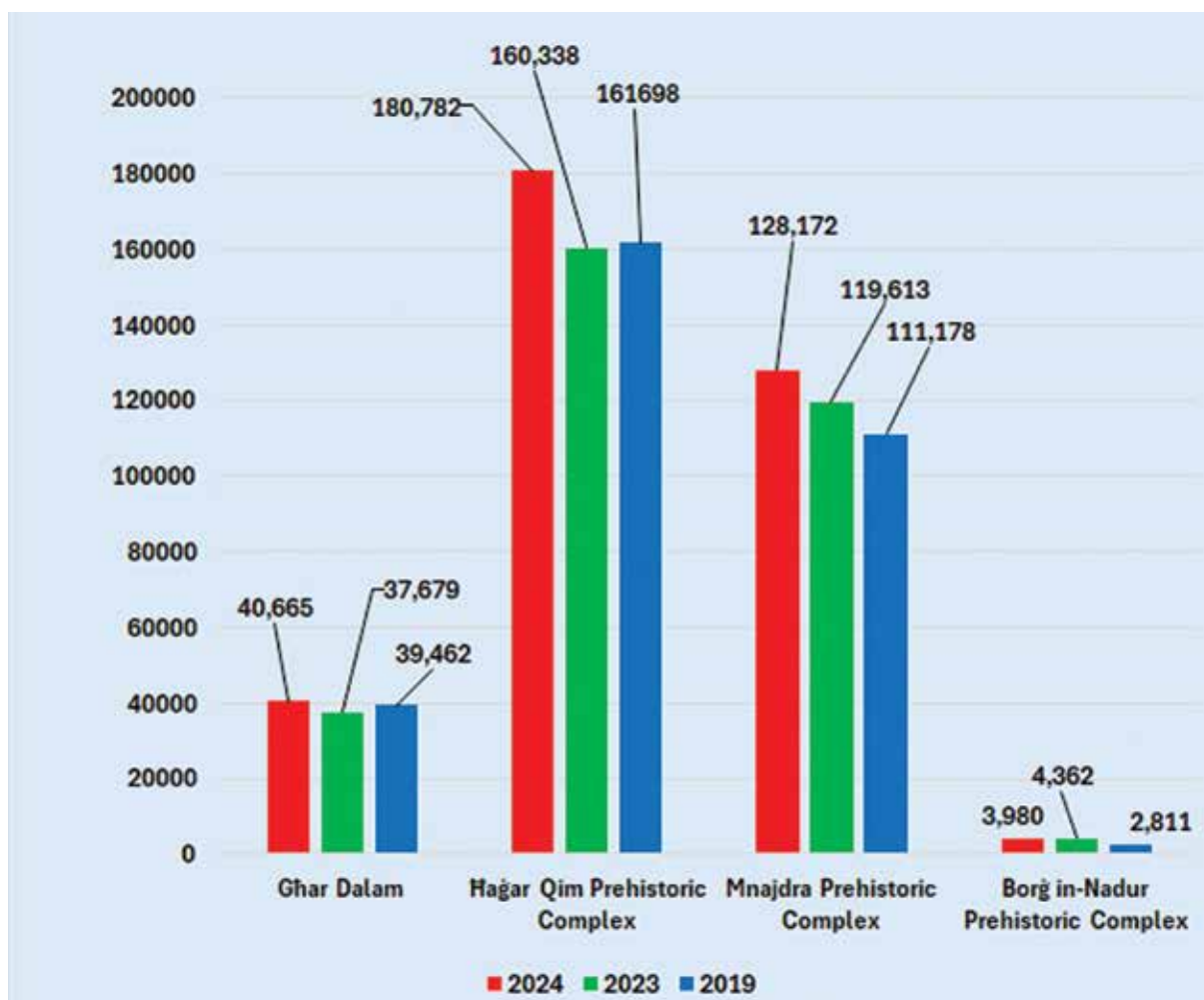
During the period under review, the senior passport scheme registered positive results. In 2024, the scheme saw an upward increase of 71% over the previous year. Ġgantija ranked the most popular among the passport holders. Ghar Dalam, Domvs Romana, National Museum of Archaeology, St Paul's Catacombs, Gran Castello and Ġgantija recorded an increase in visitors. A similar trend was noted at the Gozo Nature Museum. Meanwhile, Tarxien, Ta' Hagra and Mnajdra recorded a drop in the number of admissions. Refer to graph 9.



Graph 9: Visitors using the senior passport in 2024 & 2023 per site

Regional statistics

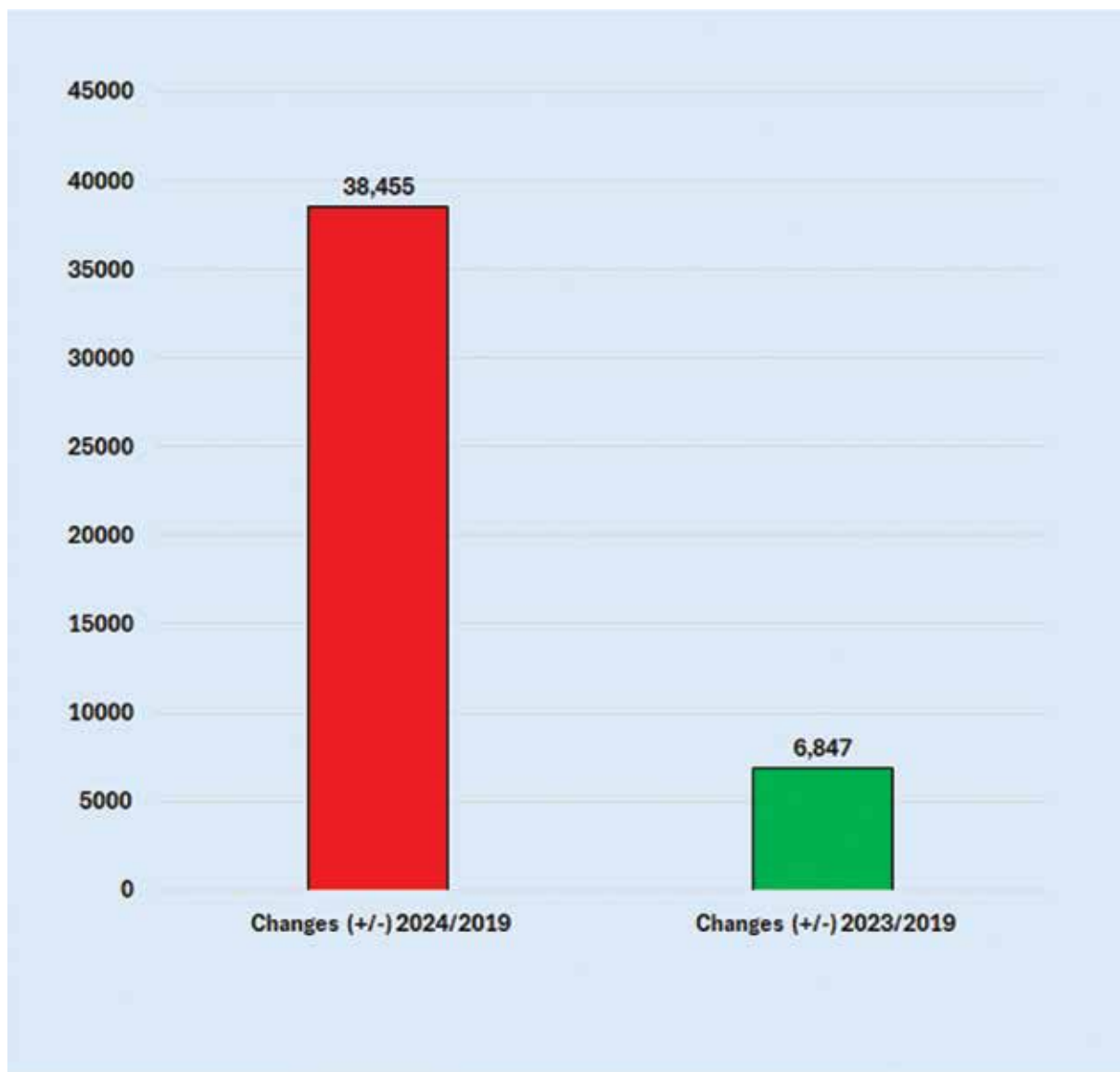
On a regional level, the movement in the number of paying visitors did not converge with the same pace. The southern region outperformed the figures attained in 2019. Globally, the sites located in the south of Malta reached a record increase of 38,000 visitors over 2019. Refer to graphs 10 and 11. During the same period Paola, Tarxien and Cottonera region recorded a marginal increase of 4,000 additional visitors compared to pre-Covid levels. Refer to graphs 12 and 13. Meanwhile, regional statistics in Rabat show encouraging results when compared to four years ago, with an increase of 14,000 visitors over 2019.² Refer to graphs 14 and 15. Valletta regional sites logged an unprecedented increase in visitors. Numerically, all three sites together lured an additional seventy-three thousand visitors compared to four years ago.³ Refer to graphs 16 and 17. In Gozo, regional statistics depicted an un-converging pattern. Ġgantija and Ta' Kola Windmill recorded a trivial increase in visitors, whereas the Ċitadella sites remained in a negative territory compared to 2019. Refer to graphs 18 – 21.



Graph 10: Paying Visitors between 2019, 2023, & 2024

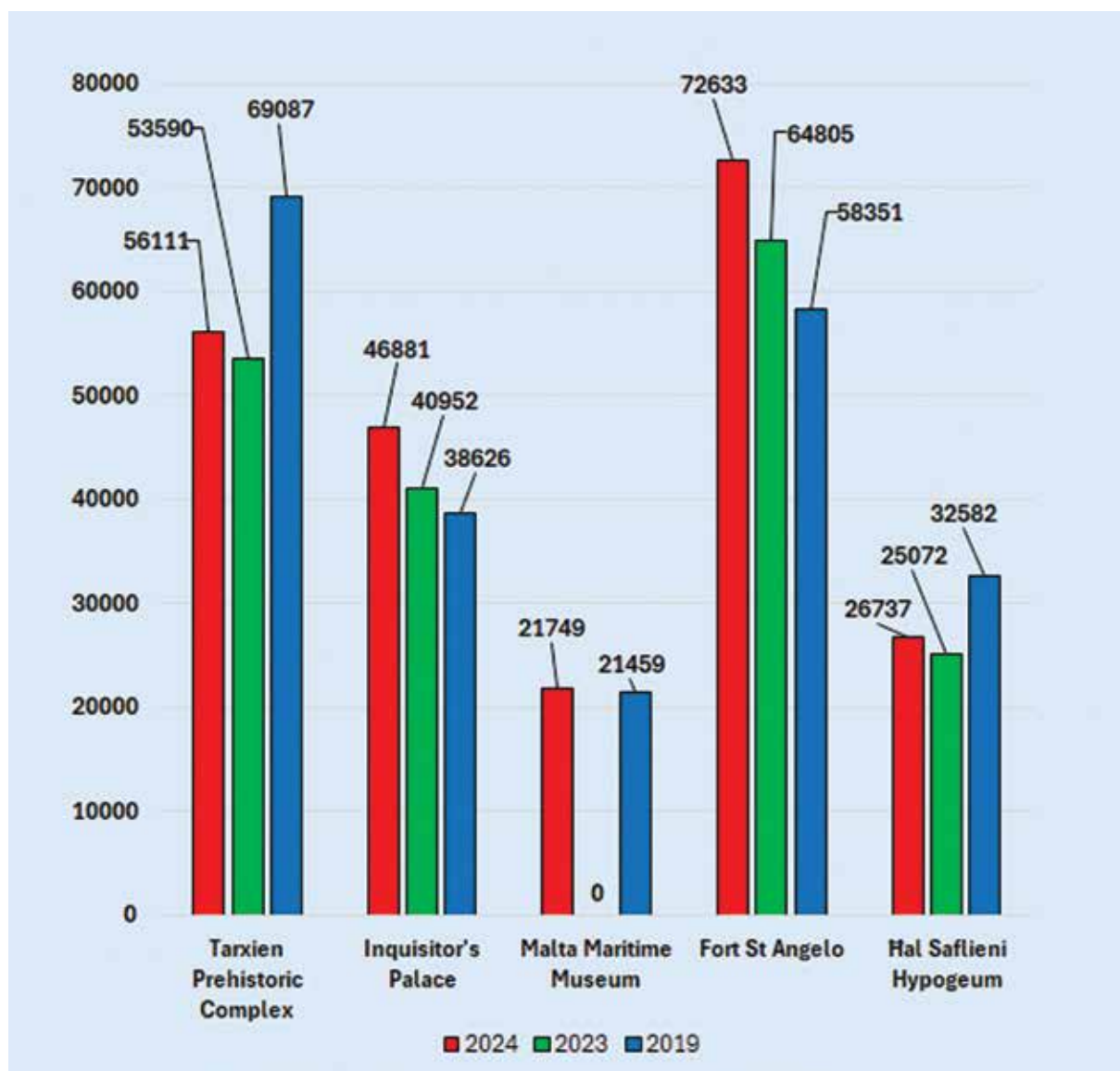
² St Paul's Catacombs turnstile was faulty in 2024. Statistics may not present the actual visitors.

³ Grand Master's Palace has been excluded as the site was closed in 2023.

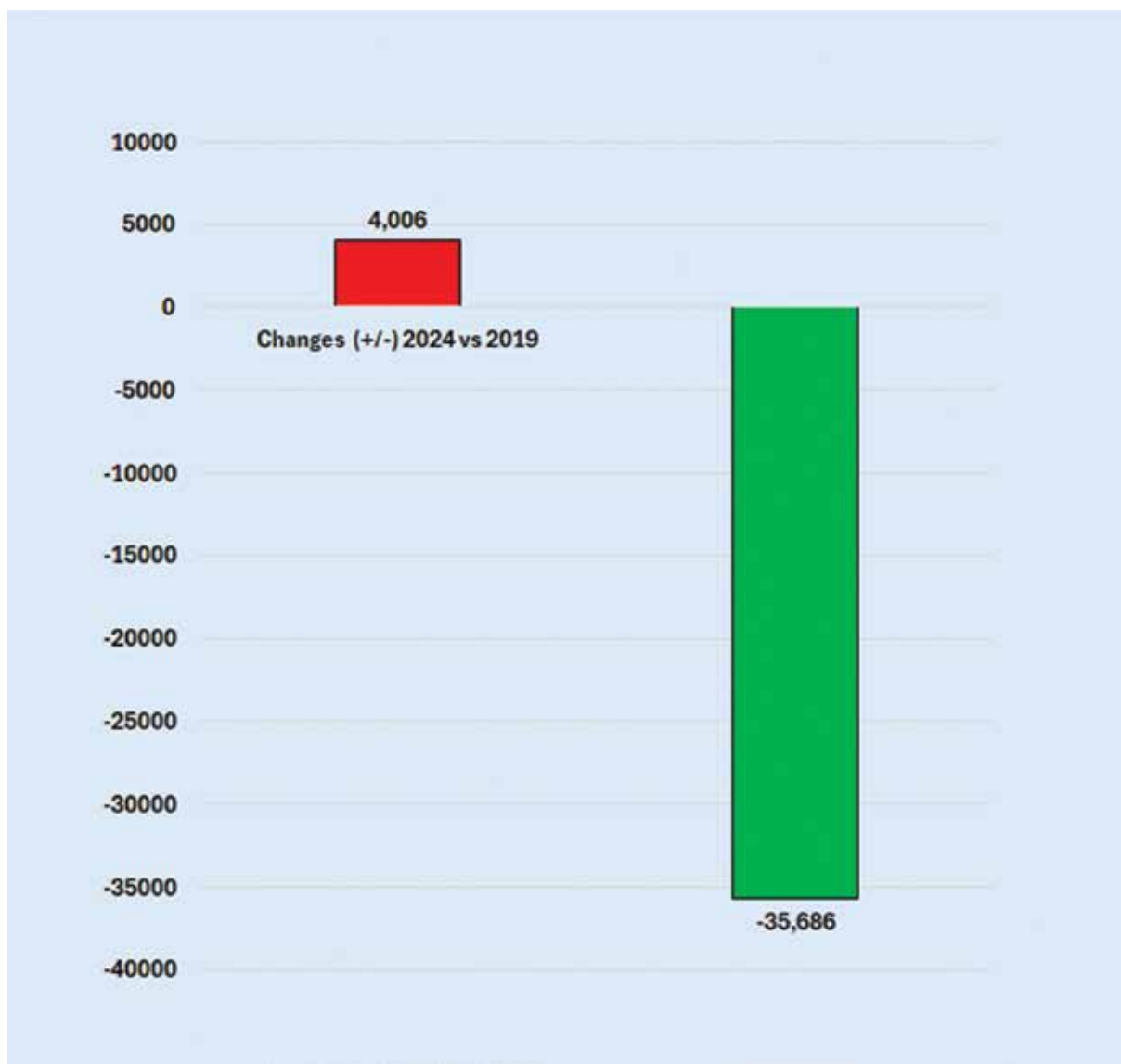


Graph II: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019

Paola, Tarxien and Cottonera region

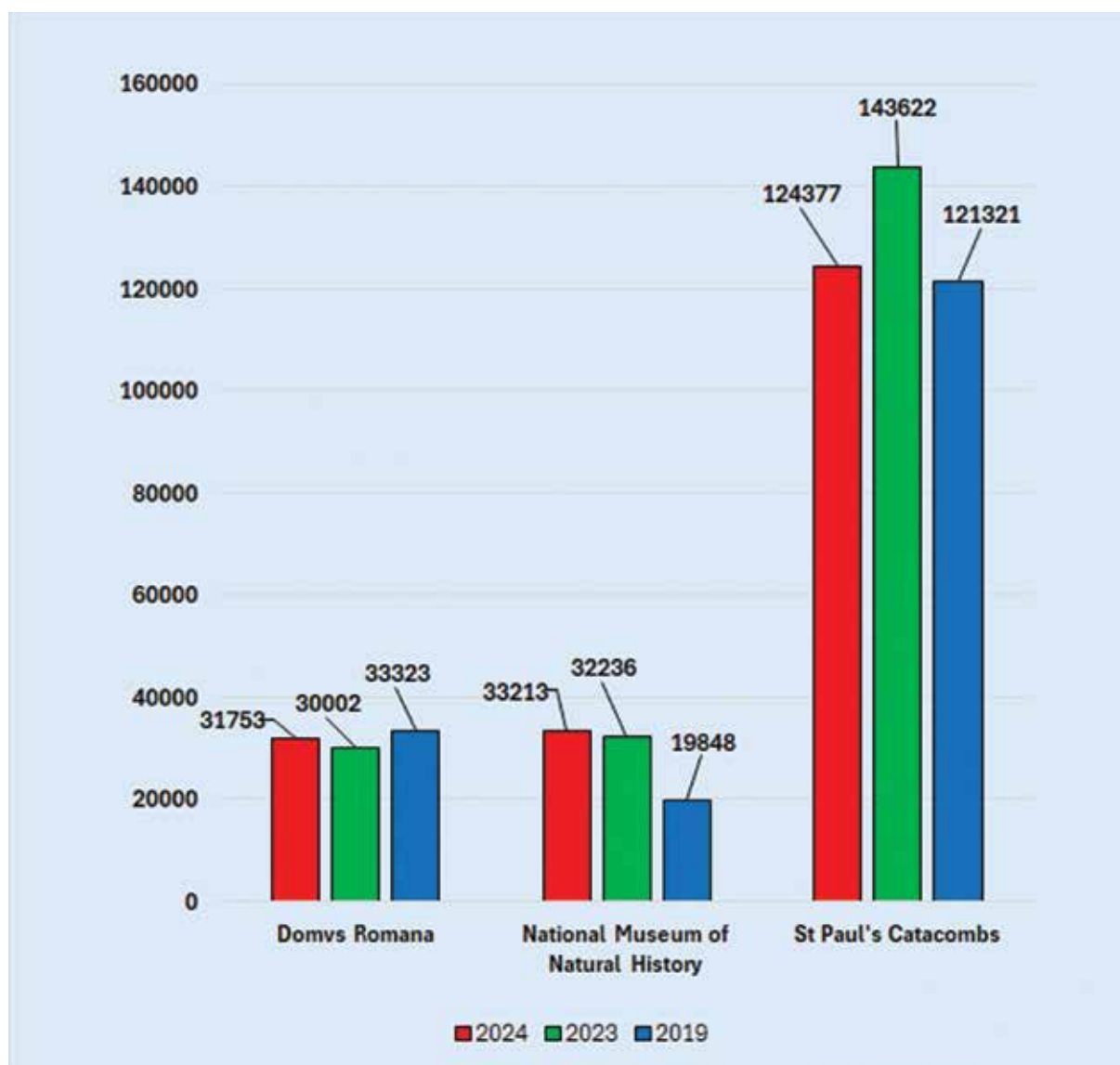


Graph 12: Paying visitors between 2019, 2023 & 2024

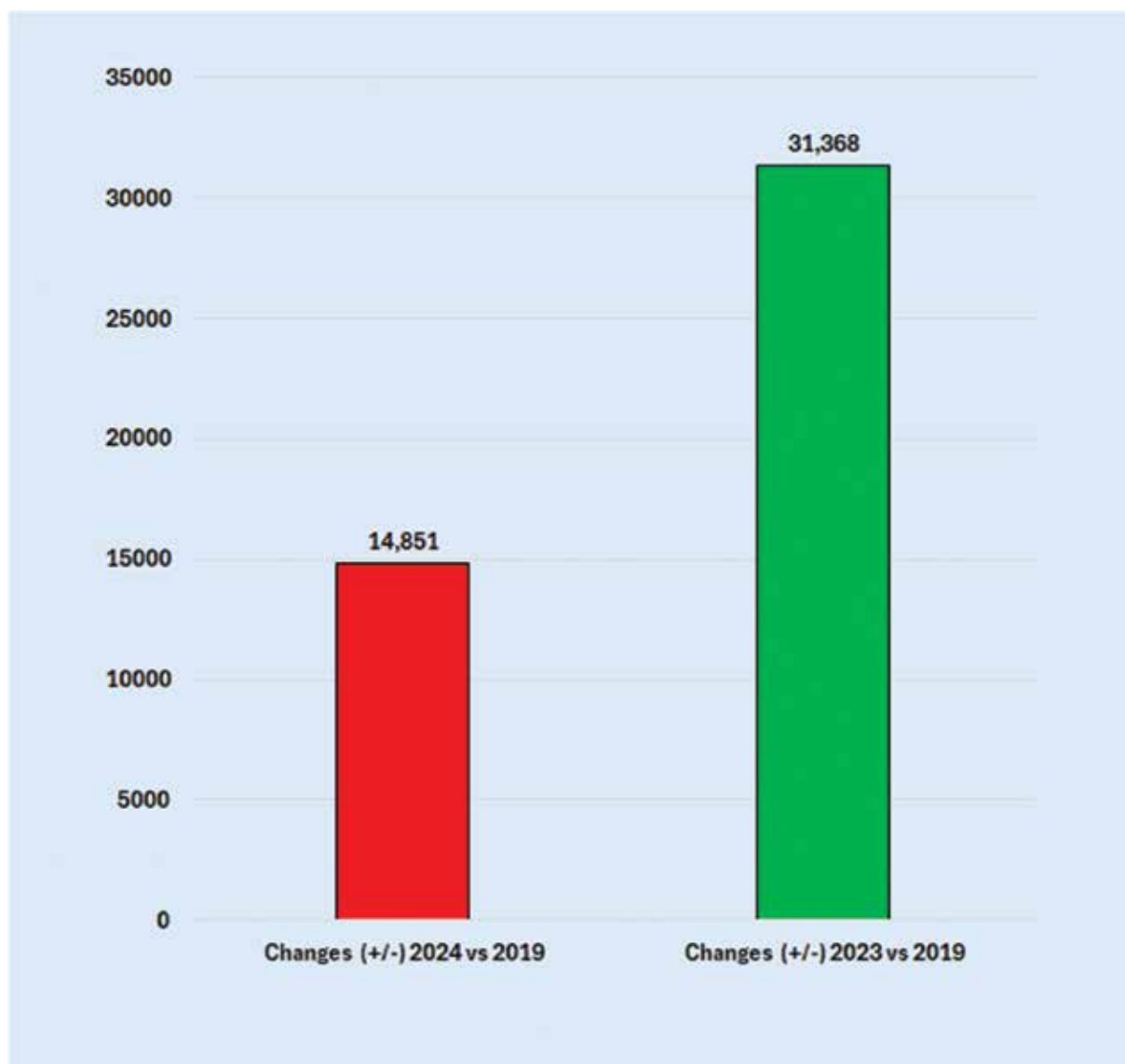


Graph I3: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019.
(Maritime Museum was closed in 2023)

Rabat region

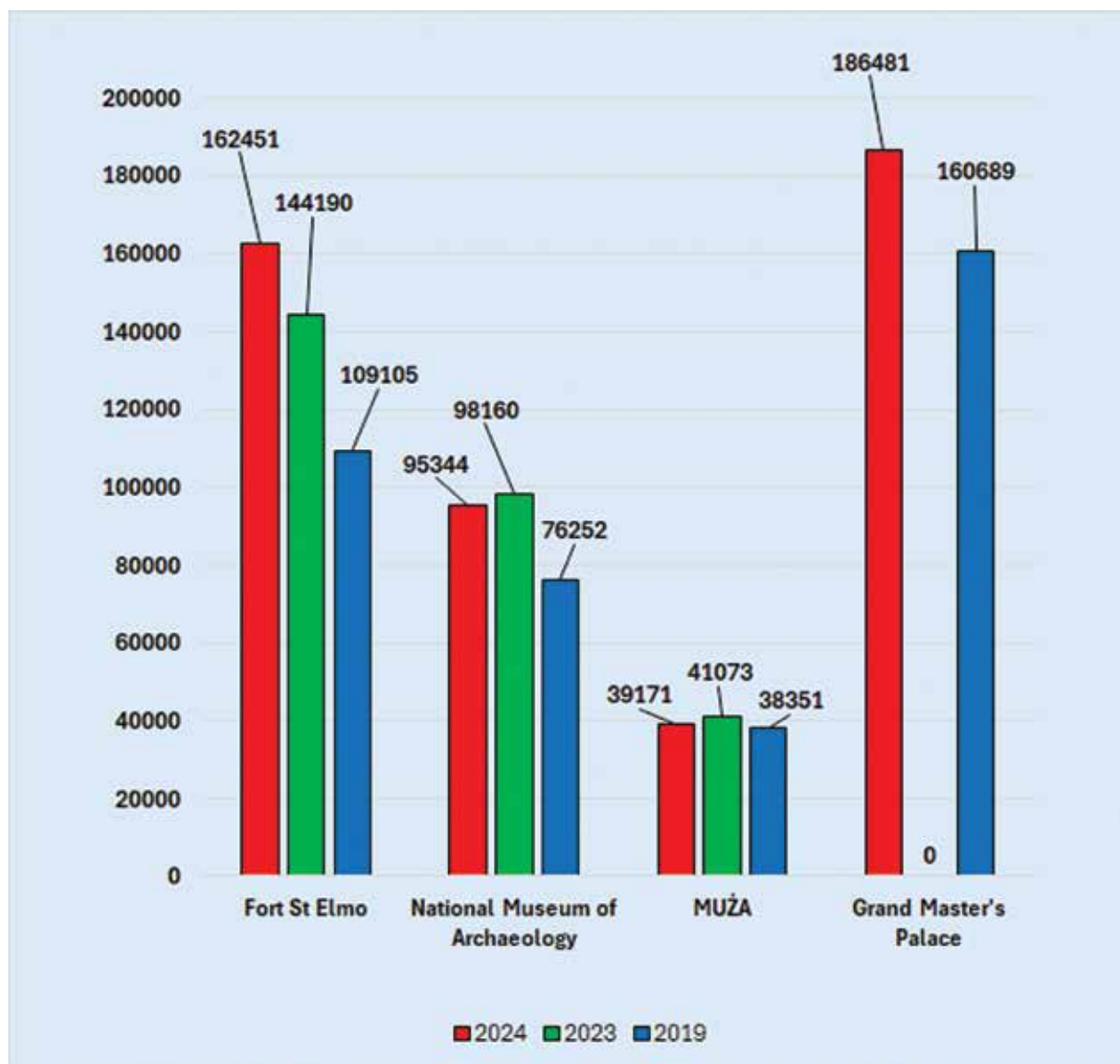


Graph 14: Paying visitors between 2019, 2023 & 2024

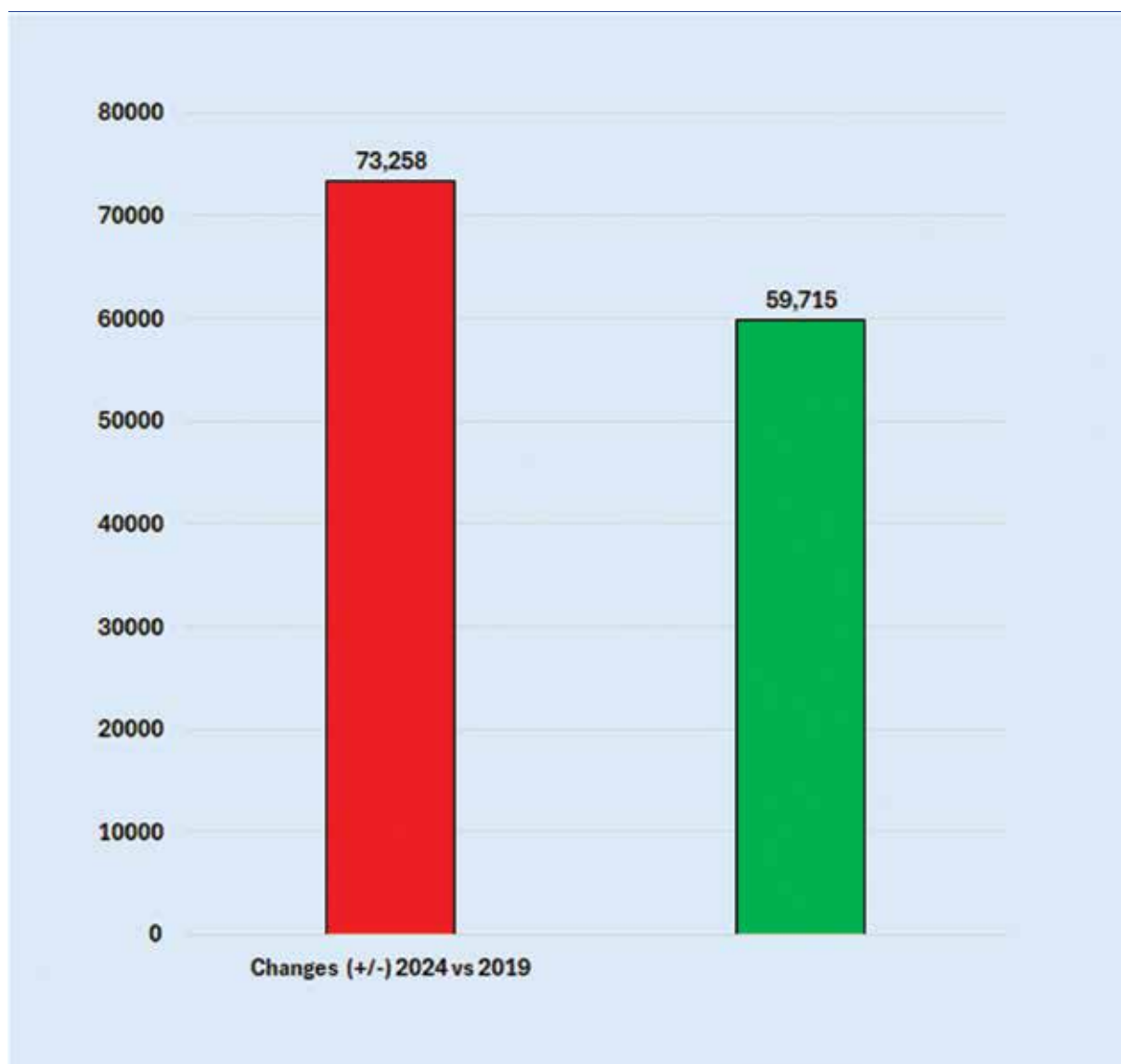


Graph 15: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019

Valletta region

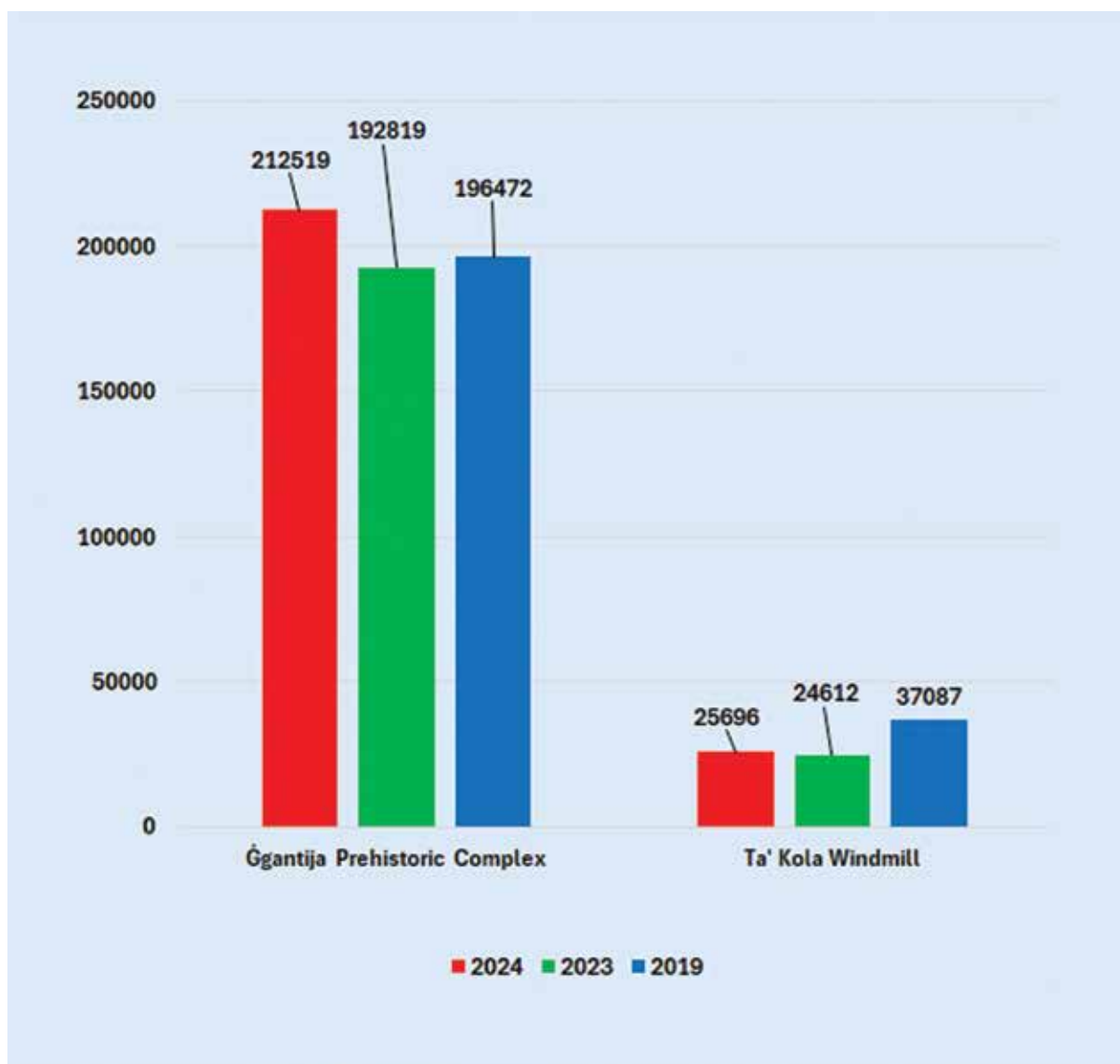


Graph 16: Paying visitors between 2019, 2023 & 2024

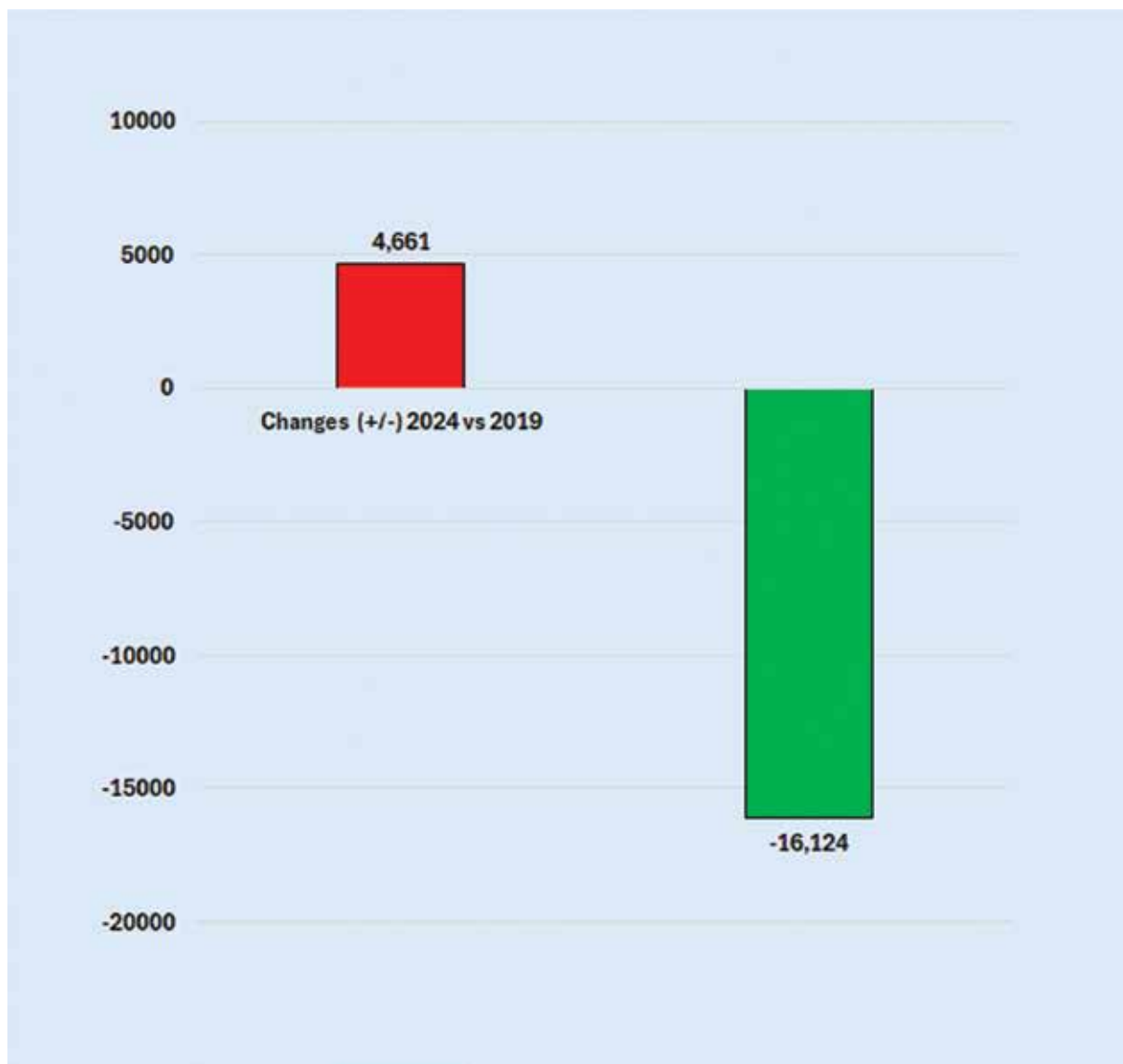


Graph 17: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019.
(Excluding Grand Master's Palace as the site was closed in 2023)

Xaghra region

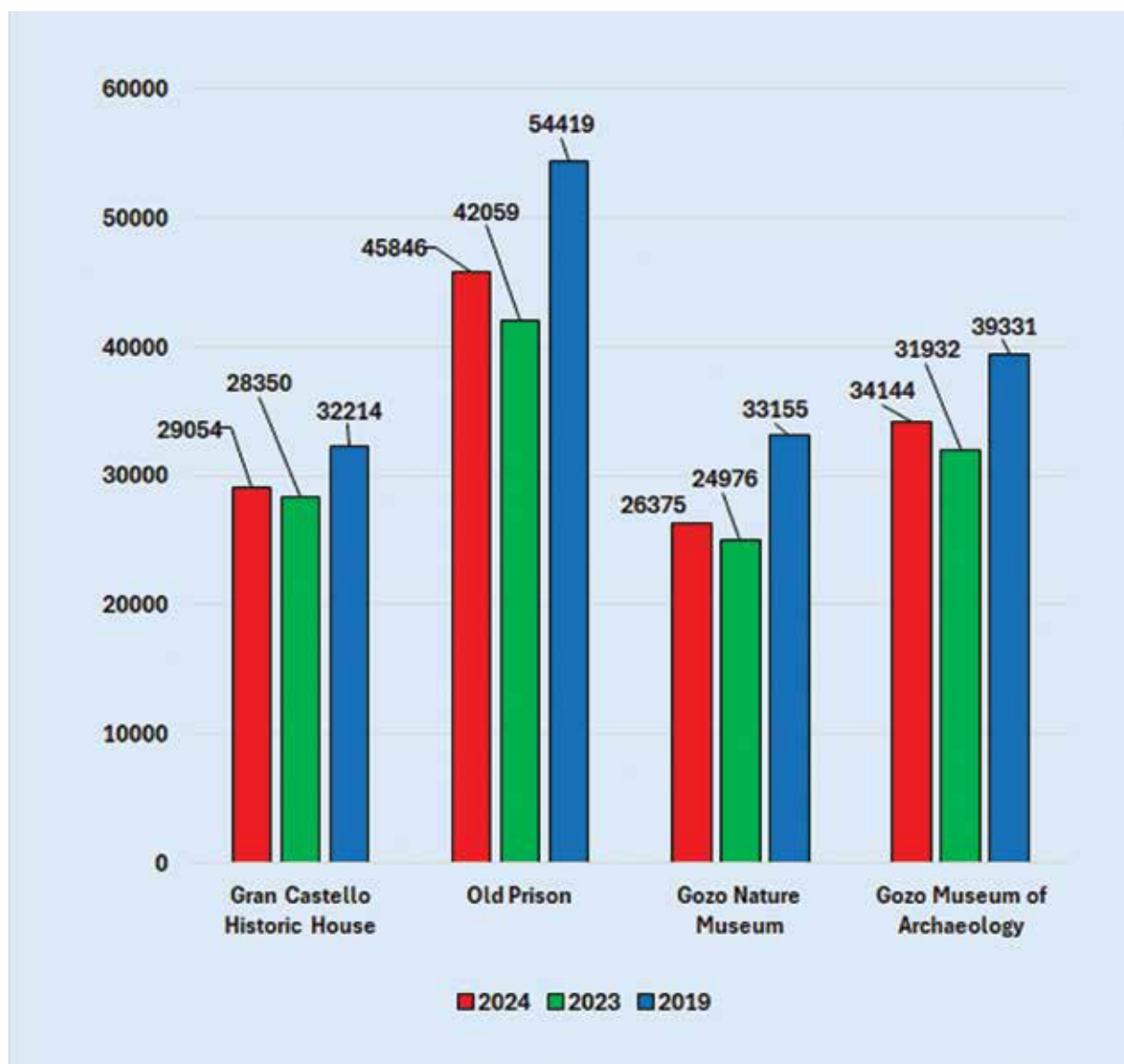


Graph 18: Paying visitors between 2019, 2023 & 2024



Graph 19: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019

Cittadella sites



Graph 20: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019



Graph 21: Changes in the number of paying visitors 2024/2019 & 2023/2019

SOUTHERN AREA	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
GHAR DALAM	40,665	37,679	39,462
HAĠAR QIM	180,782	160,338	161,698
MNAJDRA	128,172	119,613	111,178
POALA & TARXIEN	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
HYPOGEUM	26,737	26,072	32,582
TARXIEN	5,611	53,590	69,087
VITTORIOSA	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
INQUISITOR'S PALACE	46,881	40,952	38,626
MALTA MARITIME MUSEUM	21,749	0	21,459
FORT ST ANGELO	72,633	64,806	58,351
RABAT	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
DOMVS ROMANA	31,753	30,002	33,323
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY	33,213	32,236	19,848
ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS	124,377	143,622	121,321
VALLETTA	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY	95,344	98,160	76,252
MUŻA	39,171	41,073	38,581
FORT ST ELMO	162,451	144,190	109,105
PALACE ARMOURY	N/A	0	155,686
PALACE STATE ROOMS	N/A	0	165,691
GRAND MASTER'S PALACE	186,481	0	160,689
VALLETTA UNDERGROUND	9,385	7,305	0
FORTRESS BUILDERS	1,819	2,036	1,832
XAGHRA	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
ĠĠANTUJA	21,2519	192,819	196,472
TA' KOLA WINDMILL	25,696	24,612	37,087
ĠITTADELLA SITES	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
GRAN CASTELLO HISTORIC HOUSE	29,054	28,350	32,214
GOZO MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY	34,144	31,932	39,331
GOZO NATURE MUSEUM	26,375	24,976	33,155
OLD PRISON	45,846	42,059	54,419
SMALL SITES	Total Paying Visitors 2024	Total Paying Visitors 2023	Total Paying Visitors 2019
TA' HAĠRAT	4,208	3,606	3,390
SKORBA	3,185	3,090	3,374
TA' BISTRA CATACOMBS	372	642	1,335
BORG IN-NADUR & OTHER SMALL SITES	3,980	4,362	2,811
TOTALS	1,643,103	1,361,845	1,657,670

APPENDIX I CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

18 November 2023 – 21 January: **The crib's journey with St Francis / Il-Mixja tal-presepu ma' San Franġisk**, on the occasion of the 800th anniversary from the first crib by St Francis, by the *Għaqda Hbieb tal-Presepi* and the *Universalis Foederatio Praeseptica*, in collaboration with the Malta Community Chest Fund, at the ex-Armoury, Grand Master's Palace.

16 January – 29 February: **Noel Galea Bason – A retrospective exhibition**, organised by the Bank of Valletta, at the Gran Salon of the National Museum of Archaeology.

5-7 April: **Minjatura**, display of miniature models organised by the International Plastic Modellers Society, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

25 July – 5 October: **Inwahħdu xbihat minn kullimkien** – an exhibition of works from Bank of Valletta's collection of modern and contemporary art, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

2 December – 8 January 2025: **Transcending the material. Anthony Spagnol retrospective**, by the Valletta Cultural Agency, at the former stables of the Grand Master's Palace.

22 November – 1 January 2025: **The I in we**, by Sima Kahaki, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

13 October 2023 – 31 July: **The Maltese bride; 19th – 20th century bridal wear in Malta**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

27 October 2023 – 29 February: **Fare Convito. The archaeology of banqueting in Hospitaller Malta (16th to 18th century)**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

8 February – 31 December: **An Island at the Crossroads**, on the occasion of the closure of the EEA Norway Grants project, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

13 March – 31 May: **Malta Biennale**, 'Garden of Scars', art installation by Ibrahim Mahama, at the Ġgantija Archaeological Park.

13 March – 31 May: **Malta Biennale**, 'The counterpower of piracy', art installations by various artists at the Cittadella Cultural Centre and the Grain Silos, Cittadella.

18 March – 31 December: **Fare Convito. The archaeology of banqueting in Hospitaller Malta (16th to 18th century)**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1-30 September: **Exhibition of the Commonwealth dress** donated by Charles and Ron, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 September – 31 March 2025: **Betrayal and vengeance: The slaves' conspiracy of 1749 in 19 historical drawings**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5 October: **Xeni ta' Malta u Ghawdex. Il-ħamsin anniversarju tar-Repubblika**, at the Office of the Prime Minister, Auberge de Castille, for the *Notte Bianca*.

12 October – September 2025: **Threads of faith. Liturgical vestments of the Order of St John**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6 December – 31 March 2025: **1974-2024. Ir-Repubblika ta' Malta. L-ewwel 50 sena**, at the Grand Master's Palace.

EXHIBITIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

19 October 2023 – 3 March: **Mattia Preti – Discovering the baroque secrets of Malta**, in collaboration with the Royal Lazienki Museum, at the Royal Lazienki Museum, Warsaw, Poland.

3 May – 3 June: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition**, a pop-up exhibition about the importance of taking care of the natural environment, set up at Handaq Secondary School, in collaboration with ERA.

31 May 2023 – June: **The story of the Cippi of Malta: Decipherment and reunification**, at the Louvre Abu Dhabi.

5 April – 3 May: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition** – a pop-up exhibition on the importance of taking care of the natural environment, at San Andrea School.

10-26 June: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition**, a pop-up exhibition about the importance of taking care of the natural environment, at St Paul's Missionary College, in collaboration with ERA.

19 October – 17 November: **British maps of Malta**, in collaboration with the Malta Map Society, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

22 October – 19 January 2025: **TOPIA, Maltese shop fronts in porcelain**, exhibition by Barnaby Barford, at MUŻA.

5 October: **Exhibition of the J. M. W Turner Malta watercolour** at the HSBC Valletta office, for the *Notte Bianca* and the 25th anniversary of HSBC in Malta, in collaboration with HSBC.

11-26 November: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition**, a pop-up exhibition about the importance of taking care of the natural environment, at St Benedict College, Kirkop Secondary School, in collaboration with ERA.

26 November – 11 December: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition**, a pop-up exhibition about the importance of taking care of the natural environment, at Kirkop Middle School, in collaboration with ERA.

12 December: HM **underwater cultural heritage exhibition**, in collaboration with the Malta National Aquarium, at the Malta National Aquarium, Qawra.

16 December to 27 January 2025: **Corallo Mobile Exhibition**, a pop-up exhibition about the importance of taking care of the natural environment, at Stella Maris College, Gżira, in collaboration with ERA.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

23 November 2023 – 31 March: **The Mark of Jorge Juan – The Legacy of an Enlightened Scientist**, at the Museo Naval de Madrid, Spain.

1 December 2023 – 30 March: **In the footsteps of the Hospitallers: 900 years of chivalry, faith and charity**, at the National Library of Malta.

26 January – 11 February: **L-origini tal-Partit Laburista**, at the Ċentru Nazzjonali Laburista, Hamrun.

1 February – 3 March: **Paul Curmi ‘Il-Pampalun’ – Il-bniedem, il-leggenda (1930-2023)**, organised by Festivals Malta at *Spazju Kreattiv*.

30 March – 3 November: **La Sicilia di Caravaggio**, organised by the *Comune di Noto* at the Convitto delle Arti – Noto Museum, under the patronage of the *Regione Siciliana; Assessorato beni culturali e dell'identità siciliana*.

14 April – 16 June: **Curious beauty. An alternative costume exhibition**, organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* at Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum, Mdina.

18 April – 28 May: **Centennial chronicles; celebrating Malta's commercial legacy**, organised by Atlas Insurance at the Chamber of Commerce, Enterprise and Industry, Valletta.

22 August – 26 September: **Clay / craft / concept: contemporary ceramics ancient histories**, by the Malta Society of Art, at Palazzo de la Salle, Valletta.

19 September – 3 November: **... the struggle seems to be eternal: Alfred Chircop, paintings, prints, drawings**, by the Alfred Chircop Trust at *Spazju Kreattiv*.

6–9 November: **Cultural festival of the Global Public Diplomacy Network**, focusing on coinage and stamps, with the collaboration of MaltaPost, at Doha, Qatar.

LECTURES ORGANISED / HOSTED BY HM

16 January: **Jacques Francois de Chambray**, by Joseph Scicluna, at St Angelo Hall, Malta Maritime Museum.

17 January: **Fuq l-imwejjed (logħob tal-gwerra)**, by Dr John C. Betts, organised by the Malta Historical Society at the Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.

25 January: **L-ikla tal-Inkwizitur – kultura kulinari sofistikata**, by Noel Buttigieg, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

22 February: **Għas-servizz tal-Inkwizituri: L-ufficjali, il-ħaddiema u l-gabellotti**, by Rachel Grillo, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

12 April: **Morte o fortuna**, by Liam Gauci at the Citadel Cultural centre as part of the Malta Biennale activities.

28 April: **Minn tifel tal-iskola għal raġel tas-sengħa**, in the series of talks by ex-Dockyard workers, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

14 May: **Biannual migration of birds**, on the occasion of World Migratory Bird Day, at the National Museum of Natural History.

14 May: **China's stories – Chinese practices in cultural heritage conservation**, by the director of the China Palace Museum Dr Wang Xudong, in collaboration with the China Cultural Centre in Malta, at Fort St Elmo.

26 May: **It-tarzna: l-effett li halliet fuq l-istorja ta' Malta**, in the series of talks by ex-Dockyard workers, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

22 June: **The Melite Civitas Romana project** lecture at St Paul's Catacombs.

14 September: **Neolithic Malta – what we have, what we have lost and what we could lose**, by Daniel Cilia, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

29 September: **Rakkonti mit-Tarzna – L-aspetti kummerċjali u l-proċess tal-produzzjoni**, in the series of talks by ex-Dockyard workers, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

20 October: **Rakkonti mit-Tarzna – Komunità fiha u madwarha**, in the series of talks by ex-Dockyard workers, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

25 October: **Landscapes of death and commemoration** from the Phoenician to the Byzantine periods, by Dr David Cardona, at St Paul's Catacombs.

29 October: **Destroying the body but saving the soul - The dynamics of religion and conversion in the plot of 1749**, by William Zammit, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 November: **Living with death**, by Prof. Carmel Cassar, Dr Christian Attard, Dr Dane Munro and Dr Matthias Ebejer, on the eve of All Souls Day, in collaboration with the Sacra Militia Foundation, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19 November: **Overlapping circles - Experiences of slavery in early modern Malta**, by Prof. Emanuel

Buttigieg, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 November: **Secret no more. A Maltese corsair's will – Guglielmo Lorenzi 1781**, by Liam Gauci, as the Godfrey Wettinger memorial lecture 2024, in collaboration with the Malta University Historical Society and the National Archives of Malta.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

4 January: **Everyone is a critic**, a student passport activity at MUŻA.

4 January: **Monitoring Nature** for St Edward's College students, at the National Museum of Natural History.

6 January: **The mysterious knight's glass bottle**, a student passport activity at the Diagnostic Science Laboratories, Bighi.

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

9 January: **Underwater archaeology** activity for the visually impaired, at Fort St Elmo.

10 January: **Visit to the conservation laboratories** by ITS students, at Bighi.

11 January: **WWII** educational activity for students of Savio College, Dingli.

12 January: **Dghajsa tal-Latini**, an outreach activity for students of Gudja Primary School.

12 January: **Hajja Neolitika**, an outreach activity for students of St George Preca Primary School, Hamrun.

15-19 January: **Class without walls** educational activity at Haġar Qim.

15-16,19 January: **Niskopru s-sigrieti tad-dokumenti**, for students of St Michael's Secondary School, at Fort St Elmo.

17 January: **Official launching of the Biennale national pavilions**, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

17 January: **Niskopru s-sigrieti tad-dokumenti**, for students of Savio College and St Paul's Missionary College, at Fort St Elmo.

22 January: **Dghajsa tal-Latini**, an outreach activity for students of Xaghra Primary School.

22 January: **Hajja Neolitika**, an outreach activity for students of Xaghra Primary School.

23 January: **Hajja Neolitika**, an outreach activity for Year 6 students of B'Kara Primary School.

24 January: **Official launch of publication** *Antoine Camilleri's prayer – a critical analysis*, by Joseph P.

Cassar at the Camerone, MUŻA.

25 January: **Hajja Neolitika**, an outreach activity for Kullegġ San Benedittu, Kirkop Middle School.

25 January: **L-Ipogew ta' Hal Saflieni**, an outreach activity for Kullegġ San Benedittu, Kirkop Middle School.

26 January: **Dghajsa tal-Latini**, an outreach activity for students of Bahrija Primary School.

28 January: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

29 January: **X'inhi l-enerġija?** for students of Mtarfa Primary School, at the National Museum of Natural History.

30 January: **X'inhi l-enerġija?** for students of Stella Maris Primary School, at the National Museum of Natural History.

31 January: **X'inhi l-enerġija?** for students of Gudja Primary School, at the National Museum of Natural History.

2 February: **X'inhi l-enerġija?** thematic activity for students of Stella Maris Primary, at the National Museum of Natural History.

4 February: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art workshop by Joseph Cochram for student passport holders, at MUŻA.

5 February: **1,2,3 Niżfnu l-Parata tal-Karnival** for students of St Paul's Missionary College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6 February: **1,2,3 Niżfnu l-Parata tal-Karnival** for students of St Francis Cospicua, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 February: **1,2,3 Niżfnu l-Parata tal-Karnival** for students of St Julian's Primary School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

8 February: **1,2,3 Niżfnu l-Parata tal-Karnival** for students of St Monica School, B'Kara, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 February: **Tiny Teen Science Cafè** for Year 5 students of Birkirkara Primary School.

8 February: **Tiny Teen Science Cafè** for Year 6 students of Żurrieq Primary School.

10 February: **Mass and guided tours** in commemoration of St Paul's shipwreck, at San Pawl Milqi.

10 February: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art workshop by Anna

Calleja for student passport holders, at Fort St Elmo.

12-14 February: **Cooking adventures from past to present** for HM student passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

13 February: **Monitoring Nature: Diet analysis in birds**, at the National Museum of Natural History.

15 February: **X'inhil-enerġija?** thematic activity for students of Stella Maris Primary, at the National Museum of Natural History.

16 February: **Niskopru s-sigrieti tad-dokumenti** for students of St Edward's School, at the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo.

19 February: **Tour and Activity: Bridal Dress Exhibition** for senior passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19-20 February: **Mix-Xekel għall-Ewro. L-Istorja tal-muniti fil-Gżejjer Maltin**, a thematic activity for Year 5 students of St Paul's Missionary College, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

23 February: **Mix-Xekel għall-Ewro. L-Istorja tal-muniti fil-Gżejjer Maltin**, a thematic activity for Year 5 students of Gudja Primary School, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

24 February: **Special behind the scenes tour** exclusive for HM members, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

24 February: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art workshop by Violetta Kulewska for student passport holders, at Fort St Elmo.

25 February: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

26 February: **Tour** by students of the St Paul's Missionary College, at San Pawl Milqi.

26 February: Official launch of the publication **The way forward for Maltese heraldry**, by Charles Gauci, at Fort St Elmo.

6 March: **Hlejjaq ta' Madwarna**, for Year 1 students of St Dorothy's Primary School, Żebbuġ, at the National Museum of Natural History.

6 March: **Tiny Teen Science Café**, presentation on conservation given to Year 5 students of Mosta Primary School.

7, 21-22, 25-26 March: **Trekking fl-Inhawi ta' Għar Dalam**, for St Benedict College Middle School, at Għar Dalam.

8 March: Official launch of the publication **The Dockyard from the worker's perspective**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

8 March: ***Hlejjag ta' Madwarna***, for Year 1 students attending Gudja Primary, at the National Museum of Natural History.

11 March: ***Trekking fl-Inħawi tal-Imġarr***, for Cospicua Secondary School students, starting at Skorba and visiting Ta' Ħaġrat.

12 March: **Official inauguration of the Malta Biennale 2024**, with the patronage of the President of the Republic and UNESCO, at the Grand Master's Palace.

12 March: **Food: Past, Present, and Future**, for foreign exchange students, at Tarxien Prehistoric Complex and Inquisitor's Palace.

14-15 March: ***Trekking fl-inħawi tal-Imġarr***, for Pembroke Secondary School students, starting at Skorba and visiting Ta' Ħaġrat.

15 March: **Official inauguration of the Biennale Malta pavilion**, at MUŻA.

16 March: **Youropean Play** at the Malta Maritime Museum.

16 March: Curator's tour – **Fort St Elmo during the Great Siege**, at Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum.

18 March: ***Trekking fl-Inħawi ta' Għar Dalam***, thematic activity for students of Savio College, at Għar Dalam.

18 March: **Immerse yourself in Holy Week** – A journey through tradition and flavour with a cookalong experience, an activity for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

18 March: **Monitoring Nature: Wild Flora at Dingli** a course delivered by John J. Borg targeted at teenagers, at Dingli.

18, 21 March: **A journey through tradition and flavour**, guided tour of the Holy Week display and cooking of traditional Maltese spinach and anchovy *qassatat*, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19 March: **Mixja ma' Mario Coleiro** – guided tour around cultural heritage sites in Birkirkara.

19-20 March: **Spring equinox** at Mnajdra.

20 March: ***Trekking fl-Inħawi ta' Għar Dalam***, for St Benedict College Middle School, at Għar Dalam.

20 March: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale tour and art activity, at the Grand Master's Palace and the National Library.

20, 22, 25-26 March: ***Induqu l-Ħelu tal-Għid*** for students of Mellieħa Primary, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 March: ***Induqu l-Helu tal-Ghid***, for students of St Edward's School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 March: **Immerse yourself in HolyWeek: A journey through tradition and flavour with a cookalong experience**, a cookalong activity for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

23 March: ***Kwareżimal*** a student passport activity, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

23 March: ***Kwareżimal* cookalong workshop** for student passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 March: ***Il-Borma tal-Ghid***, an activity for the visually impaired, at the SPERO Headquarters.

27 March: **Roman spice art**, an educational activity for toddlers at St Paul's Catacombs.

27 March: **Roman spice art** workshop for student passport holders, at St Paul's Catacombs.

27 March: ***Il-purċissjoni s-sewda***, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

30 March: **Malta Museum of Football tour** for HM members, at Ta' Qali National Stadium, Malta Football Association, Ta' Qali.

31 March: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

1 April: **Easter egg hunt**, for student passport holders, at Ghar Dalam.

2-3 April: ***Figolli* cookalong workshop** for student passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

2-5 April: ***Tradizzjonijiet tal-Ghid*** programme for senior passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 April: **Gran Castello Easter egg hunt**, for student passport holders, at the Gran Castello Historic House, Gozo.

4 April: ***Ġnien Dinja Wahda*** educational activity for student passport holders, at the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex.

4 April: **Tour for the visually impaired**, a Biennale art activity, at Fort St Elmo.

4 April: ***Figolli Making***, a cookalong activity for seniors, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

4-5 April: **Guided tour of the Biennale Malta Pavilion** for student passport holders, at MUŻA.

5 April: **Guided tour of the Biennale Malta Pavilion** for teachers of the School of Art, at MUŻA.

5 April: ***Xalata ta' Kitba***, delivered in conjunction with the National Literacy Agency, at Ta' Kola Windmill.

7 April: **Special open day at the Domvs Romana, St Paul's Catacombs and the National Museum of Natural History**, with guided tours and family activities.

9-10 April: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art activity for students of San Andrea School, Newark School and Sacred Heart College, at the Grand Master's Palace and the National Library.

12-13 April: **Biennale by night**, a sleepover during which participants were given a private tour of the pavilions and participated in art activities, at Fort St Elmo.

14 April: **Guided tours of the Biennale pavilions**, at Fort St Elmo.

15-16 April: **Ġnien Dinja Wahda** thematic activity for students of De La Salle Primary, at Għar Dalam.

16-18 April: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art activity for students of St Michael's College and St Theresa College, at the Grand Master's Palace and the National Library.

17 April: **Ġnien Dinja Wahda** thematic activity for students from St Dorothy School Żebbuġ, at Għar Dalam.

18-19 April: **Ġnien Dinja Wahda** thematic activity for students of De La Salle Primary, at Għar Dalam.

19 April: **Mixja ma' Mario Coleiro Edizzjoni Biennale** around Valletta, starting from MUŻA.

19 April: **Presentation** on prehistory for students at St Paul's Missionary College, Rabat.

20 April: **Art and Food** activity on the Biennale pavilion, with traditional food for the children of the *Għaqda Mużikali San Leonardu* Kirkop, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 April: **Special open day of Għar Dalam and Borġ in-Nadur**, with guided tours and family activities.

22 to 26 April: **EMBED** a programme on digital learning for students and teachers by the UCHU, at Malta Visual and Performing Arts School.

22 April: **Ġmiel il-Ħrafa** thematic activity for students of Gudja Primary, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

22 April: **Food in History** an activity during which students of Kirkop Middle School were given the opportunity to eat sorbet as prepared during the 18th century.

23 April: **The Hypogeum**, an outreach talk for students at the Seminary, Rabat.

23 April: **COPE session** delivered for vocational teachers (textiles) at the National Museum of Natural History.

23 April: **Biennale tour** for history teachers as part of a COPE session, at Villa Portelli.

23-24 April: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art activity for students of St Thomas Moore College Żejtun and St Joseph School Paola, at the Grand Master's Palace and the National Library.

24 April: **Ġmiel il-Hrafa** thematic activity for students of St Dorothy's Żebbuġ, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

25-26 April: **Ġmiel il-Hrafa** thematic activity for students of St Paul's Missionary College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 April: **Treasure Hunt** for students of St Benedict College, Kirkop Middle School, at Fort St Angelo.

26 April: **Biennale Art Activity** for the students attending the School of Art, at MUŻA.

27 April: **Monitoring nature: migratory birds**, part of a course aiming to introduce children to the wonders of nature, at Buskett.

27 April: **Tour of the Old Abattoir** at Valletta, exclusive for HM members.

27-28 April: **Special open day of Fort Delimara**, with guided tours, re-enactments and family activities.

28 April: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

28 April: **Boat trip and cultural trail** around and on Comino.

28 April: **Special opening and guided tours of Kordin III** megalithic site.

29 April: **Tour of the Biennale displays** for students from ITS, at MUŻA, the National Museum of Archaeology, Main Guard and the Grand Master's Palace.

29 April: **Activity on the Revolt of the Slaves** for students of St Edward's College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

30 April: **Biennale Tour** for history teachers as part of a COPE session, at the Birgu Armoury.

30 April: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale art activity for students of San Andrea School, at the Grand Master's Palace and the National Library.

2, 9 May: **Pax Romana** for students of Savio College, at the Domvs Romana.

3 May: **Art activity and tour as part of the maltabiennale.art programme** for the School of Art, at MUŻA.

4 May: **Still stones, moving planet**, an activity for students on the autism spectrum, at Haġar Qim.

4 May: **The sea and me**, an activity for students living with Down Syndrome, at Fort St Elmo.

- 5 May: **Special guided tours for VISA student passport holders**, at Tas-Silġ archaeological site.
- 5 May: **Mixja ma' Mario Coleiro**, guided tour along historical sites in Gozo.
- 5 May: **Special opening of the Grand Master's Palace** at a reduced price, with animated guided tours and re-enactments.
- 6 May: **Visit and talk to** the EDUMaH consortium at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 6-7, 10 May: **Pax Romana** for students of St Augustine's College, at the Domvs Romana.
- 7 May: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale activity for students from Żejtun, at the Grand Master's Palace.
- 7 May: **Tour of the Biennale**, for students of the School of Arts, at Fort St Elmo.
- 8 May: **Neolithic Life**, an outreach presentation for students of St Monica School, Birkirkara.
- 8, 14, 22, 28-29 May: **Insulaphilia: The colonised Malta** a Biennale activity for senior citizens, at the Grand Master's Palace and Fort St Elmo.
- 10 May: **Night at the museum Biennale edition**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 11 May: **Monitoring nature: Bats at Mdina bastions**, a course for children, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 11 May: **Xalata ta' Kitba** activity in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Domvs Romana.
- 13 May: **Guided tour of the Biennale pavilions** for the Kalkara Community, at Villa Portelli.
- 14 May: **Matematika fil-Katakombi** for students of St Monica Primary School, B'Kara, at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 15 May: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale activity for students of Sacred Heart College, at the Grand Master's Palace.
- 15 May: **Matematika fil-Katakombi** for students of St Dorothy's Primary School, Żebbuġ, at St Paul's Catacombs.
- 15 May: **Rethinking Lampedusa**, a Biennale art activity for children at the Birgu Armoury.
- 16 May: **Biology fieldwork** for Year 9 Students of St Edward's College, at Clapham Junction, Dingli.
- 16-17 May: **Matematika fil-Katakombi** for students of St Monica Primary School, Birkirkara, at St Paul's Catacombs.

17 May: **Pass pass ma' ġrajjet artna: il-Birgu**, guided tour by Mario Coleiro of various historic buildings in Vittoriosa, with particular focus on the Biennale contemporary art, including the Birgu Armoury and Inquisitor's Palace.

18 May: **Art and digital exploration education workshop** on the occasion of International Museums Day, at Fort St Angelo.

18 May: **Art and wine Biennale edition**, including guided tour of the installations, exclusive for HM members, at Fort St Elmo.

18 May: **Great Siege and fortifications guided cruise**, around the Grand Harbour.

20-21 May: **Symbol literacy activities** for students from Vittoriosa Primary School, at Fort St Angelo.

20 May: **A Biennale guided tour** for the Ministry and Directorate of Culture, at the Grand Master's Palace, Main Guard, and the National Library.

21 May: **Matematika fil-Katakombi** for students of Baħrija and Mtarfa primary schools, at St Paul's Catacombs.

21 May: **Insulaphilia: The Matriarchive of the Mediterranean** a Biennale activity for students from San Andrea School, at the Grand Master's Palace.

23 May: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students of St Benedict's College, Gudja Primary, at Haġar Qim.

23 May: **Guided tour of the Biennale Malta pavilion**, at MUŻA.

24 May: **Tour of the Biennale Malta pavilion** for Valletta residents, at MUŻA.

24 May: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students from Maria Regina College, St Paul's Bay Primary School, at Haġar Qim.

24 May: **Art activity** for students of the School of Art, at MUŻA.

24 May: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

25 May: **Guided tour and art activity** for persons with dementia, at MUŻA.

25 May: **Special guided tour of the Police general headquarters** and WWII hospital shelter, exclusive to HM members.

26 May: **Gozo guided tour**, including visits to Ġgantija Archaeological Park, the Gran Castello Historic House and the Citadel visitor centre.

27 May: **Biennale guided tour** for Cottonera residents, at the Birgu Armoury and Dock I.

- 28 May: **Guided tour of the Biennale Malta pavilion**, exclusive for HM members, at MUŻA.
- 28-29 May: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students of St Ignatius College, Siġġiewi Primary, at Haġar Qim.
- 29 May: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students of St Dorothy's Żebbuġ, at Haġar Qim.
- 30 May: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students of St Edward's College, at Haġar Qim.
- 31 May: **Art inspired food**, an educational activity for holders of the HM student passport, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 3 June: **Nivvjagġaw lura fiż-żmien** for students of Safi Primary, at the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex.
- 4 June: **Art activity** for MCAST students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 7 June: **Monitoring nature: Rocky coasts**, a course for students of St Edward's College, at Baħar iċ-Ċagħaq.
- 11 June: **Nagħmlu l-Ftira**, education workshop on the art, culture and history of the *ftira* for student passport holders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 11-12 June: **Induqu l-ftira Maltija** for Year 6 students of St Paul's Missionary College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 14 June: **Night at the museum – a tale of two sieges**, at Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum.
- 15 June: **Workshop** for people suffering from dementia, at MUŻA.
- 15 June: **Special opening and guided tour** of the Abbatija tad-Dejr Catacombs.
- 19 June: **Clean Oceans** conference, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 21 June: **Special opening focusing on the Melite Civitas Romana project**, at the Domvs Romana.
- 21-23 June: **Summer solstice** guided tour at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.
- 22 June: **L-għarusa Maltija**, tour of the exhibition and lecture for HM members, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 22 June: **Weddings in Malta** – half day seminar on the cultural, historical and evolving fashion of Maltese weddings, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 24 June: **Melita Civitas Domvs Romana excavation** for students of Rabat Primary.
- 25 June: **Discover EU** visit and activity, at MUŻA.

27 June: **Official presentation of the donation** of a Commonwealth Fashion Exchange dress to the national collection by Charles and Ron, at the Inquisitor's Palace and the Textile conservation laboratory, Bighi.

28 June: **Official launch of the HM student passport summer programme**, at the National Museum of Natural History.

29 June: **On the route of St Paul**, guided tour of San Pawl Milqi and cruise around St Paul's Islands.

29 June: **Monitoring nature**, a course for students of St Edward's College, at the National Museum of Natural History.

30 June: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

6 July: **Treasures from under the sea**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at the Gozo Citadel museums.

8 July: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage – Ftira Ghawdxija** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

9 July: **Shark story**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.

10 July: **Visit and activity** by the Cottonera Resource Centre, at the Domvs Romana and the National Museum of Natural History.

11 July: **Activity and coffee break** for the Active Ageing Centre, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

12 July: **A pirate's life**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

13 July: **Sharks – the big bite**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.

14, 21 July: **Filfla tour**, with cultural and natural information on the islet.

15-19 July: **Gifted maths students** at the Malta Maritime Museum.

15 July: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese Culinary Heritage – Imluħa għal mal-hobż**, a session forming part of a cooking course for children, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

15, 29 July: Activity for **Skolasajf**, Ġgantija Prehistoric Park.

- 17 July: **The Vikings**, a course for HOI POLLOI, at Fort St Angelo.
- 18 July: **Curator's tour of The Maltese bride exhibition** for Active Ageing Centre, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 19 July: **Tour and activity about WWII** for seniors from the Partit Nazzjonalista, at Fort St Elmo.
- 20 July: **Turtle tales – exploring the life cycle of our shelled friends**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at the Gozo Nature Museum.
- 22 July: **Flavours of Mata and Gozo – Exploring Maltese Culinary Heritage – *Balbuljata bil-patata moqlija***, a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 23, 26 July: **Introductory session** on Maltese culture for foreign carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.
- 23-24 July: Activity for **SkolaSajf** at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 24 July: **Summer Camp** for students of St Edward's School, at Fort St Elmo.
- 24 July: **Activity for visually impaired persons** from SPERO, at the National Museum of Natural History.
- 25 July: **Summer camp** for students of St Edward's School, at the Grand Master's Palace.
- 26 July: **Saltwater sorcery – transforming sea water into fresh water**, educational event as part of the student summer programme, at Fort St Angelo.
- 27 July: **Guided tour of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**, exclusive for HM members.
- 28 July: Last Sunday of the month **special monthly opening of Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.
- 29 July: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage – *Għagin frisk bil-pixxispad***, a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 29 July: **Periti Summer Club visit** to Tarxien Prehistoric Complex.
- 29-31 July: **Fluency Camp** at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 30 July: **Visit** and activity by Rainbow Kids Summer School to Hagar Qim Park.
- 31 July: **Session about prehistory** for St Vincent de Paule foreign carers.
- 1 August: Activities related to the Islands at the Crossroads exhibition for the **Fluency Camp** in collaboration with the Speech Department of the Primary Healthcare, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

1 August: **Visit and activities** for students from Gharb Parish summer club, at the Gozo Nature Museum and Gran Castello Historic House.

1 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at Fort St Angelo.

2 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

2 August: **Underwater chronicles**, virtual reality expedition to explore the past, educational programme for children at the Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre.

5 August: **Exploring ice cream history and salt's cool effects**, educational hands-on programme for children, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf, at the Ġgantija Prehistoric Park.

5 August: **Session about Phoenicians** for foreign carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.

6 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at Fort St Angelo.

7 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

7 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf at the Island at the Crossroads, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

7 August: **Shark Tale**, an activity for students of San Miguel Resource Centre, Pembroke.

8 August: **Christopher Columbus (the explorers) and William Shakespeare**, activities for HOI POLLOI summer school, at Fort St Angelo.

8 August: **Talk to seniors from the Valletta Community Network**, at St Augustine's Parish Hall, Valletta.

8 August: **Tour and activity on the Island at the Crossroads exhibition** for people using service dogs, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

9 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf at the Island at the Crossroads, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 August: **Full steam ahead!** a student passport summer activity, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

19 August: **Flavours of Mata and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

19 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf at the Island at the Crossroads, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

19 August: **Session about Romans and Byzantines** for foreign carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.

20 August: **Keep it clean!** a student passport summer activity, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

20 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf at An Island at the Crossroads, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

21 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at Forst St Angelo.

21 August: **The Victorians and World War II**, activities for HOI POLLOI summer school, at Fort St Elmo.

22 August: **Summer activities** for students of St Edward's School, at Fort St Elmo.

26 August: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf, at Ġgantija Prehistoric Park.

27-28 August: **Visit and activity** for SkolaSajf at An Island at the Crossroads, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

28 August: **Mermaids, unicorns, and other fantastic creatures**, a student passport Summer activity, at the National Museum of Natural History.

29 August: **Activity** for the Cottonera Community Service, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

29-30 August: **Visit** by Rainbow Kids Summer School, at Għar Dalam.

2 September: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 September: **From 2D to 3D in Art**, a student passport summer activity, at MUŻA.

5 September: **Waves of inspiration: Admiring seascapes and unleashing your artistic talent**, a student passport summer activity, at MUŻA.

6 September: **Ice cream and imqaret making activity**, a team-building session offered to 360legal, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

8 September: **Victory day regatta – celebrating Malta's triumphs**, celebration of mass by the Archbishop at the Nativity chapel, commemoration at the Great Siege monument, access to area managed by the Order of St John, and viewing of regatta, at Fort St Angelo.

9 September: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

- 12 September: **Seafaring in prehistory**, at the Tarxien Prehistoric Complex.
- 13 September: **The rainbow fish**, educational activity on fish for young children as part of HM's student passport programme, at the Gozo Nature Museum.
- 13 September: **Repeat session** for carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.
- 14 September: **Explore Xlendi Tower**, special guided tour for children as part of HM's student passport programme, at Xlendi.
- 16 September: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 16 September: **Activity** for children of HM Staff, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 18 September: **Repeat session** for foreign carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.
- 18 September: **Flavours of Malta and Gozo – Exploring Maltese culinary heritage** a session forming part of a cooking course for children and another one for adults, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 19 September: **Imprints from the past**, educational activity for young historians, archaeologists and geologists as part of HM's student passport programme, at the Gozo Nature Museum.
- 20 September: **Malta Football Museum guided tours** for HM VISA student passport holders, at the Malta Football Museum, Ta' Qali.
- 20-21 September: **Malta's sustainable development action days** – be part of the change! Guided walks of Wied Dalam as part of the European Sustainable Development Week, at Ghar Dalam.
- 20-22 September: **Autumn Equinox**, special guided tours at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.
- 21 September: **Skopri l-Furjana magħna**, guided tour of various historic buildings in Floriana by Mario Coleiro.
- 25 September: **Session about the Knights and the French in Malta** for carers of St Vincent de Paule Residence.
- 28 September: **Workshop** in collaboration with the Erasmus Project Essays Beyond Borders, at Fort St Elmo.
- 28 September: **Behind closed doors – Church of Our Lady of the Pillar**, exclusive guided tour for HM members.
- 4 October: **Introductory Session** for EduMah students working on the Learning Outcomes project at

the Old University Building, Valletta.

5 October: **Workshop** in collaboration with the Erasmus Project Essays Beyond Borders, at Fort St Angelo.

7 October: **Team building session & tour** for Speech and Language Health Practitioners, at Haġar Qim Archaeological Park.

7-8 October: **Dive into history 360 session** for elderly residents of St Vincent De Paul Residence.

9 October: **Tour** to students of the Institute of Maltese Studies, at Ghar Dalam.

11 October: **Launch of the Clean Oceans Programme**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

12 October: **Workshop** in collaboration with the Erasmus Project Essays Beyond Borders, at Haġar Qim Archaeological Park.

12 October: **Tour** for the Malta University Historical Society, at the Grand Master's Palace.

12 October: **Museums by candlelight**, re-enactors, music band, food delicacies, and *ghana* singing and dockyard workers engaging with the public, at the Inquisitor's Palace, the Malta Maritime Museum, and Fort St Angelo.

15 October: **European Network of Holy Week and Easter Celebrations** at the Inquisitor's Palace.

16 October: **Tour** to students of the Institute of Maltese Studies, at Haġar Qim Archaeological Park.

19 October: **Sail and savour**, food and drinks on the terrace and viewing of the Rolex Middle Sea Race, at Fort St Elmo.

20 October: **Pass pass ma' Preti – Mixja fit-toroq tar-Rabat u l-Imdina**, guided tour on Mattia Preti in the said localities by Mario Coleiro.

22 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Maria Regina College Secondary School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

22 October: **Activity for Prisms**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

23 October: **Tour** to students of the Institute of Maltese Studies, at the Domvs Romana.

23 October: **Tour and activity** for seniors from the Active Ageing Centre, at MUŻA.

23 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Clare's College Secondary School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

- 23 October: **Official launch of the Tales of Cottonera online portal**, at the Egmont Hall, Fort St Angelo.
- 24 October: **Tour and activity** for seniors from the Active Ageing Centre, at MUŻA.
- 24 October: **Introductory Session** for EduMah Students working on the Learning Outcomes project at the Old University Building at MUZA and Haġar Qim.
- 25 October: **Tour and activity** for senior members of Valletta Community Network, at MUŻA.
- 25 October: **Tour and activity** for students of Valletta primary school, at MUŻA.
- 25 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of San Andrea School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 25 October: **Dark tales of Fort St Elmo**, guided tour on gruesome tales related to Fort St Elmo through the ages, at Fort St Elmo.
- 26 October: **Workshop** in collaboration with the Erasmus Project Essays Beyond Borders, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 27 October: Exclusive pre-booked guided tour of **Ta' Mintna Catacombs**.
- 28 October: **Tradizzjonijiet ta' Novembru** for students of Bahrija Primary, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 28 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Clare's College secondary school, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 28 October: **Sleepover** for students from St Edward's College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 29 October: **Tradizzjonijiet ta' Novembru** for students of Mater Bonii Consilii, St Joseph Primary School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 29 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Joseph School, Blata l-Bajda, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 30 October: **Tour** to students of the Institute of Maltese Studies, at the Grand Master's Palace.
- 31 October: **Tradizzjonijiet ta' Novembru** for students of Gudja Primary, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 31 October: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Mriehel secondary school, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 2 November: **Activity for migrants and asylum seekers**, at Għar Dalam.
- 4-5 November, **Tasty bones and time-worn stones**, a student passport cooking event to create the

traditional *ghadam tal-Mejtin*, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6 November: **Presentation** for elderly residents, at Dar il-Hanin Samaritan, Santa Venera.

7 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Ta' Paris Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

8 November: **After dark at Hal Tarxien**, a tour of the megalithic Hal Tarxien Prehistoric Complex under torch light.

8 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Kirkop Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

9 November: **Sleepover** by Appoġġ at the Inquisitor's Palace.

12 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Theresa College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

13 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from the Gozo College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

13 November: **Dive into History 360** by UCHU for elderly residents of Casa Leone, Sliema.

14-15 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from Maria Regina College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

16 November: **Workshop** in collaboration with the Erasmus Project Essays Beyond Borders, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

18-20 November: **Educational visit** for students from St Clare's College, at Għar Dalam.

18 November: **Presentation on bridal costumes** and issue of senior passports to residents of Dar l-Annunzjata elderly residence home, Tarxien.

19 November: **Activity** for members of St Paul's Bay day centre.

19 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Thomas More College, Tarxien, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of San Andrea School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

20 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Nicholas College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 November: **Underwater cultural heritage experience** for Żokrija Steam Café.

21 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Kirkop Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

21 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Benedict College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 November: **Underwater cultural heritage experience** for Żokrija Steam Café.

22 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Margaret College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

22 November: **Underwater cultural heritage experience** for Żokrija Steam Café.

23 November: **The world of rocks**, students programme for a fun-filled journey into the magical world of geodes, a student passport activity at the National Museum of Natural History.

25 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Kirkop Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

26 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Michael School, St Venera, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

26 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Clare's College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 November: **Let's talk shop**, a workshop for supervisors of the Active Ageing Unit, Qormi.

26 November: **Tour** for students from the Institute of Tourism Studies, at Fort Delimara.

27 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Savio College, Dingli, and Maria Regina Mosta Secondary, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

27 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Ġorġ Preca College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

27 November: **TOPIA – Let's talk shop** a discussion between Barnaby Barford and Prof. Marie Briguglio, at MUŻA.

28 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Benedict's College, Kirkop Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

28 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students from St Ignatius College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

28 November: **TOPIA - Let's talk shop**, curatorial tour and panel discussion led by Prof. Marie Briguglio, at MUŻA.

29 November: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Michael School, St Venera, and St Theresa College, Mriehel Secondary, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

29 November: ***Il-Malti fl-istorja u r-rewwixta tal-iskjavi***, for students of St Ignatius College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

30 November: **Life in the Neolithic**, detailed presentation of various artefacts shedding light on everyday life, exclusive for HM members, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.

1 December: **Christmas at the Fort**, at Fort St Elmo.

3 December: **A cup of poisoned coffee: history, archaeology, trade and high treason**, panel discussion, presentations and tasting, in collaboration with Taste History, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 December: **Science in the dark**, a student passport activity, at the National Museum of Natural History.

8 December: **Sailors and stories. A Royal Navy journey**, an exclusive guided tour of Fort St Angelo's intriguing Royal Navy epoch (1906-79), at Fort St Angelo.

9 December: ***Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied***, for students of Gżira Primary, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

9 December: Visit by students of **Museums Education as Cultural Politics** with Dr Peter Mayo, at MUŻA.

10 December: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Dingli Secondary School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

10 December: **Activity and Tour of TOPIA exhibition** to MCAST Students, at MUŻA.

11 December: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Ta' Paris Middle School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

11-12 December: ***Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied***, for students of St Paul's Missionary College, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

12 December: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of Haileybury School, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

12 December: **Clean Oceans student programme** for students of St Martin's College, Swatar, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

14 December: **Honey rings and Christmas crafts**: A cookalong educational activity for student

passport holders about the rings' history while learning how to create and bake their own, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

16 December: **Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied** for students of St Patrick's Salesian School, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

17 December: **Christmas tour and cooking activity** for the China Cultural Centre in Malta, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

18 December: **Official launch of the publication *Morte o fortuna***, by Liam Gauci, at St Angelo Hall of the Malta Maritime Museum.

21-22 December: **Winter Solstice**, enjoying the sunrise on the shortest day of the year, at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park.

19 December: **Tour for Caritas group**, at the Grand Master's Palace.

27 December: Activity for **HM staff kids** at Fort St Elmo.

27 December 2024: **VISA open day activity** at the Birchircara Railway Museum.

30 December: **Tour for Caritas group**, at Fort St Angelo.

EVENTS HOSTED BY HM

14, 18 January: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

15 January: **Official presentation of conservation warrants** by the *Bord tal-Warrants tal-Konservaturi*, at the Gran Salon, National Museum of Archaeology.

18 January: **Official visit to Villa Guardamangia** by Leo Docherty, British Minister for Europe, at Villa Guardamangia.

4, 18 February: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

3, 7 March: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

19 April: **Official visit to Ġgantija Archaeological Park** by Her Excellency the President of the Republic.

17 May: **Art cope session**, by the Secretariat for Catholic Education, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

17 May: **Documenting museums and private collections using digital tools**, conference organised by ICOM Malta for International Museums Day, at the St Angelo Hall, Malta Maritime Museum.

24 May: **In Guardia**, historical re-enactment by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

27 June: Official launch of the publication **Bread and bakers in 18th century Malta**, by MidSea Books, at St Angelo Hall, Malta Maritime Museum.

29 July: **Opera vs pop under the stars**, by Gozo Youth Wild Band and Orchestra, at the Ġgantija Archaeological Park.

9 August: **Official presentation of heritage skills certificates**, by the *Bord tal-Warrant tar-Restawwaturi*, at MUŻA.

11 August: **Official launch of the summer carnival**, by the Ministry of National Heritage, at MUŻA.

21 August: **Official presentation of conservators' warrants**, by the *Bord tal-Warrant tar-Restawwaturi*, at MUŻA.

20 September: **National Book Prize presentation ceremony**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

8-11 November: **Remembrance weekend**, in collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority, at the Commonwealth Naval War Graves in Kalkara and Fort St Elmo.

10 November: **Remembrance Weekend: The echoes of our military past**, guided tour on the military history and other less known uses of the fort, together with the National War Museum, at Fort St Elmo.

7 December: **Science in the dark**, a student passport activity blending art and science, at the National Museum of Natural History.

12 December: **Official presentation of conservation warrants** by the *Bord tal-Warrants tal-Konservaturi*, at the Gran Salon, National Museum of Archaeology.

EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

7 January: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

12 January: **Official inauguration of the Grand Master's Palace and Armoury**, in collaboration with the Office of the President of the Republic and the Office of the Prime Minister, at the former stables of the Grand Master's Palace.

27 January: **Heritage interpretation capacity building programme for the Malta Biennale**, in collaboration with UNESCO and the International Centre for the Interpretation and Presentation of World Heritage Sites, at the Camerone, MUŻA.

- 4 February: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.
- 12 February: **Xalata ta' Kitba** in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Inquisitor's Palace.
- 14 February: Signing of **Memorandum of Understanding between HM and the Malta Police Force**, at Fort St Elmo.
- 15 February: Guided **visit to the Bigli conservation laboratories** by the Vittoriosa Historical Society.
- 21 February: **Free guided tours by tour-guiding students of the Institute of Tourism Studies**, on the occasion of Tourist Guide Day, at the National Museum of Archaeology and Tarxien Prehistoric Complex.
- 28 February: **Signing of agreement for the restoration of a firilla** by HM, The Malta Tourism Authority, and Marsaxlokk Heritage, at Marsaxlokk sea front.
- 1 March: Official **unveiling ceremony of a commemorative plaque on the rehabilitation project of the Grand Master's Palace** by the President of the Republic, at the State Rooms of the Grand Master's Palace, in collaboration with the Office of the President.
- 3 March: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.
- 8 March: **Visit to the Conservation Labs** by MVPA students, at Bigli.
- 14, 15, 18, 20, 21 March: **X'hemm**, six workshops to 200 Year 6 students delivered in collaboration with Pembroke Science Centre, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 15 March: **Research seminar**, in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, the National Archives, Malta Libraries and the University of Malta, at the Malta Maritime Museum.
- 23 March: **Regatta day – exploring the magistral palace**, special opening in collaboration with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, at Fort St Angelo.
- 2 April: **Official handover of cultural heritage items at the Office of the President** to HM, in collaboration with the Office of the President, at the Grand Master's Palace.
- 5 April: **Commemorative ceremony of the 30th anniversary of local councils**, organised by the Xagħra Local Council at the Ġgantija Archaeological Park.
- 7 April: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.
- 20 April: **Lejl Imkebbes**, late night opening of the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the Gran Castello Historic House and the Old Prison, in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo.

27 April: **Xalata ta' Kitba** delivered in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Domvs Romana.

5 May: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

13 May: **Tour of the Malta Biennale pavilions for Kalkara residents**, in collaboration with *Wirt il-Kalkara*, at Villa Portelli.

14 May: **Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between HM and Project Green**, at Villa Portelli.

2 June: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

2 June: **Aspects of the Castrum Maris**, medieval re-enactments in collaboration with the Historical Re-enactment Group Malta, at Fort St Angelo.

7 July: **Open evening at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

1 August: **Għarb Parish summer club** students tours and hands-on activities at the Gozo Nature Museum and the Gran Castello Historic House.

4 August: **Open evening at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

1 September: **Open evening at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

5 September: Signing of **Memorandum of Understanding between HM and Xjenza Malta**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

28 September: **Tempietto serenade**, piano concert by Yun Cai at the gardens of Villa Frere.

6 October: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

8 October: **Official visit by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh**, and inauguration of the Submariners' Walkway, in collaboration with the British High Commission, at Fort St Elmo.

8 October: **Official visit by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh**, in collaboration with the British High Commission, at the Malta Maritime Museum and MUŻA.

9 October: **Official visit by the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh**, in collaboration with the British High Commission, at Villa Guardamangia.

23 October: **Official presentation of the donation of around 50 military medals** and a sword pertaining to five generations of the Gatt family over 150 years, in collaboration with the Gatt family, at the National War Museum, Fort St Elmo.

26 October: **Heritage on the rails**, guided tour of Malta's former railway and tram systems, exclusive

for HM members, at the Malta Railway Museum, Old Railway Station, Birkirkara, in collaboration with the Malta Railway Foundation.

3 November: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

9 November: **Launch of military tourism and Remembrance Day** event, In collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority, the Australian High Commission in Malta and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, at St Anne's Chapel, Fort St Elmo.

10 November: **Open day at the National War Museum** and Fort St Elmo on the occasion of Remembrance Day, in collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority.

23 November: **Festival tal-kitba għall-brillantini tal-kitba** in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

1 December: **Open day at Villa Frere gardens**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

11 December: Official inauguration of the first phase of the **rehabilitation of Villa Portelli**, at Villa Portelli.

EVENTS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

20 January: **Official launch of the Ta' Pinu project publication**, at Ta' Pinu, Gozo.

1 March: Participation in the **EMBED digital skills project** via the Underwater Virtual Reality Experience (UCHU).

7 April: Special opening and guided tours of **Ta' Hagarat and Skorba for Festa Frawli** at Mgarr.

30 April: **Special opening of Fort St Angelo** for the Malta Fireworks Festival.

15-19 May: **EXPO24 tas-Servizz Pubbliku**, at the MFCC, Ta' Qali.

7-9 June: **Earth Garden Festival**, at Ta' Qali National Park.

14-23 June: **Malta International Arts Festival**, organised by Festivals Malta, at the Grand Master's Palace, Valletta Underground, and the Inquisitor's Palace.

14 July: **Open day at the Police general headquarters**, Floriana.

2 September: **Inauguration of rehabilitation works** at the Nativity Chapel by the Vittoriosa Parish, at Fort St Angelo.

20 September: **Commemorative banquet on the occasion of Malta's 60th anniversary of Independence**, at the Hotel Phoenicia.

5 October: **Notte Bianca**, extended opening hours and various attractions at the National Museum of Archaeology, the Grand Master's Palace, MUŻA, Fort St Elmo, and Tal-Pilar chapel.

19 October: **Malta Rolex Middle Sea Race**, by the Royal Malta Yacht Club and the Malta Tourism Association, at Fort St Elmo and Fort St Angelo.

6-10 November: ***Festival Nazzjonali tal-Ktieb***, at the MFCC, Ta' Qali. 11

APPENDICES II-V ACQUISITIONS

Appendix II: Purchase of Modern and Contemporary Artworks (Line Vote 5557)

Purchased from	Object number	Object detail	Collection	Reference number	Price €
Anna Maria Calleja	207173	<i>Ġlieda fil-Mandraġġ</i> by Edward Caruana Dingli	MUŻA	FAS/P/2809	70,000
Charles Farrugia	207295-300	Six prints of various titles by Wendy and Victor Pasmore	MUŻA	FAS/P/1202-07	14,000

Appendix III: Donations of Natural History Specimens

Paul Sammut of Rabat presented a collection of mixed entomological specimens (pinned and set) consisting mostly of Lepidoptera and Coleoptera species.

Christopher Vella of Floriana donated an early 19th century female cap made of feathers and a framed King Bird of Paradise used as a decoration on a woman's hat.

Dennis Magro of Qrendi donated a fresh dead specimen of *Obama nungara*, an invasive flatworm newly recorded from the Maltese Islands.

Vincenza Degaetano donated the following stuffed and mounted birds: three Honey Buzzards, one Marsh Harrier, one Lesser Kestrel, and one Red-footed Falcon.

Sandra Damato of Gżira donated the following 13 stuffed and mounted birds:

Gadwall	Male + Female
Eurasian Teal	Male + Female
Goldeneye	Male + Female
Pochard	Male + Female
Mallard	Female
Smew	Female
Tufted Duck	Female
White-fronted Goose	
Greater Flamingo	

Loraine Chetcuti-Riolo of Mosta presented a donation of stuffed and mounted birds as follows:

Wigeon	1
Green-winged Teal	2
Northern Shoveler	2
Shelduck	1
Common Pochard	1
Osprey	1
Honey Buzzard	9

Montagu's Harrier 1
 Hobby 2
 Red-footed Falcon 2
 Eleonora's Falcon 2
 Grey Plover 1
 Black-headed Gull 1
 Northern Lapwing 2
 Wood Pigeon 1
 Common Kingfisher 1
 Common Cuckoo 1
 European Bee-eater 2
 Roller 1
 Red-tailed Rock Thrush 1
 Blackbirds 1
 Fieldfare 1
 Golden Oriole 1
 Magpie 1

Andrea Nappo made two donations: a) 15 specimens of nine species of Mollusca, and b) Lots- 59 Olividae, 79 Conidae, four others.

Adrian Agius of Naxxar donated a selection of wild seeds and a parasitic wasp and host.

Anthony Seguna of Naxxar presented another generous donation of 13 double-sided boxes containing Maltese moths.

Professor Gilles Gutierrez presented a collection of 31 pieces carved from elephant ivory, acquired between 1955 and 1967. The statues hail from Agboville, Oumé, Gagnoa and Soubré in the Côte d'Ivoire.

A collection of ornithological books (92 titles) was donated to the museum by the family of the late John Azzopardi of Żejtun.

The DePasquale family from Valletta donated their father and grandfather's conchological collection, consisting of several hundred specimens of mollusca and other natural history items, some of great scientific and historical significance.

The John Rizzo Naudi family donated their father's conchological collection, consisting of several hundred specimens.

The Police, Wild Birds Regulation Unit and the Environment and Resources Authority deposited numerous confiscated specimens in the museum. These are, however, still awaiting court judgement.

Appendix IV:

Purchase of items for the Gozo Museum

Purchased from	Object number	Description	Reference number	Price €
Georgette Savona Ventura	215984-94	Equipment from the Victoria Press in Charity Street, Victoria, Gozo, run by Joe Grech Cassar (b. c.1894) and his father Salvatore before him.	G/ ETHN/W/176-85; G/ETHN/M/333	500
Antiquariato Librario Bado e Mart	216009	Set of 35 hand-coloured copper engravings by Salvatore Busuttil bound in book titled <i>Solenne Processione Vaticana del Corpus Domini</i> (Rome, Deodato Minelli, 1838).	G/PPD/2024/04	13,300
Forum Auctions	216008	Engraved map titled 'Plan de la cite neuve de Chambray dans l'isle du Goze', 1754, by A. F. Gervais de Palmeus, engraved by Jean Lattre.	G/PPD/2024/03	1,812
Georgette Savona Ventura	215995-216002	Equipment from the Victoria Press in Charity Street, Victoria, Gozo	G/ ETHN/W/186-89, G/ ETHN/M/334-35, G/ETHN/PL/5, G/ ETHN/PH/1	250
Obelisk Auctions	216029	Gozitan lace makers, by Antoine Camilleri.	G/PPD/2024/17	19,000
Dr Albert Ganado	216017-206028	Various engravings of Gozo views, miniature prints by Salvatore Busuttil, one pencil drawing and a 19th-century folded, portable personal map of Gozo	G/ PPD/2024/05-G/ PPD/2024/16	1,130
Joseph Debrincat	207767-68	Vintage shop sign of the Coney Island Bar in Victoria, Gozo, closed in December 2023, and framed carpet of J. F. Kennedy hung in the same bar	G/ETHN/M/332, G/ETHN/F/651	250

Appendix V: Acquisition of Cultural Heritage Items

i. Purchases

Purchase from	Obj. no.	Object detail	Collection	Ref. no.	Price €
Claude Micallef Attard	89442	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo, entitled 'View of the Town and Fortifications of the Island of Malta', 1830s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/452	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89443	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo, entitled 'Malta' 1830s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/453	25
Claude Micallef Attard	89444	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Grunenbergh batteries at Fort St Angelo, entitled 'MALTE' by Rouargue, 1863	Fort St Angelo	FSA/454	60
Claude Micallef Attard	89445	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'der hafen von la valetta anf malta', 1820s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/455	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89446	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo	Fort St Angelo	FSA/456	50
Claude Micallef Attard	89447	Engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled, 'Malte Vue generale du port', by Audot 1820s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/457	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89448	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'Der Hafen van la Valletta', 1820s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/458	50
Claude Micallef Attard	89449	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled, 'Das Grosse Hafen Basin von Malta', 1870s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/459	40

Claude Micallef Attard	89450	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'Das Grosse Hafen Basin von Malta', 1870s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/460	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89451	Steel engraving of Fort St Angelo entitled 'Het Eiland Malta', 1800s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/461	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89452	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'La Valletta', 1800s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/462	25
Claude Micallef Attard	89453	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'Fort St Elmo in la Valetta anf Malta, vom Fort St Angelo aus gesehen', 1830s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/463	35
Claude Micallef Attard	89454	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'Hafen von la Valletta', 1820s	Fort St Angelo	FSA/464	25
Claude Micallef Attard	89514	Book entitled <i>Journal of The Forces</i> by Lt Aeneas Anderson, published 1802	Fort St Angelo	FSE/404	1,950
Claude Micallef Attard	89455	Print view of Marsamxett harbour showing Fort St Elmo entitled, 'View of Valletta from off St Elmo', 1850s	Fort St Elmo	FSE/405	100
Claude Micallef Attard	89456	Steel engraving view of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Elmo entitled 'De Stad la Valetta, Op Malta', 1820s	Fort St Elmo	FSE/406	55
Claude Micallef Attard	89457	Engraving view of Marsamxett harbour showing Fort St Elmo entitled 'Arrival of Indian Troops in Malta', 1878	Fort St Elmo	FSE/407	40

Claude Micallef Attard	89458	Steel engraving view of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Elmo entitled 'Ansicht von Malta', 1830s	Fort St Elmo	FSE/408	40
Claude Micallef Attard	89459	Steel engraving view of Marsamxett harbour showing Fort St Elmo entitled 'Storm Quarantine Harbour Malta', 1840s	Fort St Elmo	FSE/409	35
Claude Micallef Attard	89460	Copper engraving of Fort St Elmo showing the new Carafa enceinte, 'Svppli. to Dell'antico Recinto Della Citta Valletta', by Andreas Trost, 1688	Fort St Elmo	FSE/410	250
Claude Micallef Attard	89445	Steel engraving of Grand Harbour showing Fort St Angelo entitled 'der hafen von la Valetta anf Malta', 1820s	Fort St Elmo	FSA/455	40
Gigi's Antiques & Collectibles	89619	Framed engraving showing test firing of the three 25-ton RML guns on Fort St Elmo cavalier on occasion of visit by the Prince of Wales, 6 April 1876	Fort St Elmo	FSE/412	60
Atlas Antiques	89596	Part of a key of Abercrombie Cart Lift Bastion. Manufactured by Hobbs & Co London, for the War Department.	ETHN	FSE 411	60
EBAY: Blueunicorns	89562	Copy of an aerial photo of Fort Delimara	Fort Delimara	FD 11	10
Belgravia Auctions	89561	Octagonal tilt top table inlaid with coat of arms of eight Grand Masters	MUŻA	FAS/F/668	23,298
Dr Albert Ganado	89056-239	184 watercolour drawings on paper with scenes from daily life and occurrences in Malta during WWII by Alfred Gerada	MUŻA	FAS/D/2092-2268	85,000

Old Master Print	89626	St Paul at Malta bitten by the Viper, Hendrick Goltzius	MUŻA	FAS/PR/1130	693
Peter Kiefer GmbH Antiquarian	89623	Louis le Grand' Portrait of Louis XIV engraving by Hyacinthe Rigaud's	MUŻA	FAS/PR/1131	364
Obelisk Auction Gallery	207166	A seated oriental lady with a long Ottoman pipe, watercolour drawing by Amadeo Preziosi	MUŻA	FAS/D/2076	582.45
Giorgio Salce - Luxury Books	207144-5	Book of prints titled <i>First of Principles of Drawing Art</i> and book of maps titled <i>Plans des ports et rades de Mediterranean</i>	MUŻA	FAS/PR/1132, FAS/MAPS/725	3,300
Colasanti Casa d'aste	207151-2	Two drawings: Donna alla fonte by Tommaso Minardi and Temple of Vesta in Tivoli by Filippo Giuntotardi	MUŻA	FAS/D/2274-5	2,882
Simon Ellul Sullivan OBO Dr Albert Ganado	218956-218963	Eight prints with 66 portraits of Grand Masters	MUŻA	FAS/PR/1210-1217	3,500
Simon Ellul Sullivan obo Dr Albert Ganado	207187-266	Collection of 80 prints and drawings of Maltese costumes, trades, tradition and views of Grand Harbour with parts of Malta and Gozo	MUŻA / Maritime / Gozo Museum/ Ethnography	Various	15,000
Simon Ellul Sullivan obo Dr Albert Ganado	218965-219000	A collection of 36 prints, drawings, books and maps	MUŻA	Various	7,000
Karen Taylor Fine Art	207789	Tarxien Malta painting by Edward Lear	MUŻA	FAS/D/2058	10,265

Antiquario Corso del Rnascm.to	219002	Veduta del Tempio di Vesta detto della Sibilla a Tivoli, published in 'Raccolta delle vedute pittoresche di Roma e de' suoi contorni. Vol.I, parte prima contiene vedute di Tivoli e vicinanze' in 1825	MUŽA	FAS/PR/1249	450
Subastas Segre, Madrid	219003	Pendant of the Order of Malta with an allegorical scene of Melita, Att. to Giuseppe Bruno	MUŽA	FAS/GL/42	12,143
Oliver Agius	74568	1940s Singer Cordwainer's sewing machine	Ethnography	ETHN/M/997	80
Gigi's Antiques & Collectible	74567	Wembley ice-cream Malta poster c.1957	Ethnography	ETHN/ PAP/1275	30
Ebay: vintage_ gems888	76183	1924 British Empire Exhibition railway map and site plan	Ethnography	ETHN/ PAP/1276	100
Obelisk Auctions	76239	Rare 18th-century Doccia porcelain two handle tureens, with hand-painted floral design (provenance Palazzo Parisio)	Ethnography	ETHN/CER/128	1059
Catawiki	76227- 38	Series of 12 engravings showing customs and ceremonies of Roman Catholics, after Bernard Picart, 18th century	Ethnography	ETHN/ PAP/1277- /1288	50
AbeBooks: Antiquariat Steffen Volkel GmbH	76252	Copper plate printed engraving of Carlo Ginori c.1770s engraved by Carlo Faucci, designed by Giuseppe Magni	Ethnography	ETHN/ PAP/1289	61
Randolph Frendo Azzopardi	76250	Top hat made by Lincoln Bennett & Co. in Burlington Gardens, Old Bond Str, London, late 19th-early 20th century	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2670	150

Randolph Frendo Azzopardi	76251	Detachable men's 'Sundown' collar made by Pegasus England	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2677	150
Lawrence Caruana	76283	Late 19th-early 20th century, ecru silk Maltese Bobbin lace lappet	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2681	500
Oliver Galea	76281-2	Doll size x-frame pram c.1970s/80s, rubber doll with closable eyes and removable pacifier c.1980s	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/85, ETHN/D/68	25
Anthony Vella	76352-9	Collection of eight glass beer bottles with Malta connection	Ethnography	ETHN/G/135 - 142	565
Smart Auction	76656	Ginori porcelain vinegar cruet holder	Ethnography	ETHN/CER/149	1,158
eBay Seller JamieXmas	76632	19th-century black silk Maltese bobbin lace shawl	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2718	303
Vassallo Auctioneer	76639	Virgin and child with St Sebastian and St Roch	Ethnography	ETHN/I/11	3,812
Lucas Milano	76638 i-ii	Two portraits showing Cardinal Giovanni Francesco Stoppani and another unknown cardinal (poss. Giuseppe Alessandro Furietti)	Ethnography	ETHN/P/62i-ii	4,083
Joseph Saliba	76659 i-vi	A set of Art-Nouveau furniture made up of wardrobe, dressing table, chest of drawers, bedside table, wash-stand table and a pelmet	Ethnography	ETHN/W/475 i-vi	800
Silvio Felice	89859-62	A cow lift, a rope 'mesh', a wooden wheelbarrow, a large wooden cultivator	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/F/585, 586, G/ETH-N/W/168, 173	750
Silvio Felice	89863-67	Two antique metal buckets but one painted in red, an antique wrought iron and two large metal cauldrons	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/M/279-281, 284, 285	930

Silvio Felice	89868-77	Five coloured glass shades consisting of two green, two blue and one yellow and five metal brackets to support glass lamps	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/G/22-26, G/ETH-N/M/260-264	650
Silvio Felice	89878	A traditional hooded winter coat from handwoven sheep's wool	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETHN/F/584	300
Silvio Felice	89879	A set of traditional playing equipment consisting of eight wooden pins and two wooden balls	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/W/164	360
Silvio Felice	89880	Fishmonger's wooden open container painted red brown	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/W/165	70
Joseph Debrincat	207767-9	Vintage shop sign 'Coney Island Bar', framed tapestry of US President Kennedy, 1980s amber drinking glass	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/M/332, G/ETHN/F/661, G/ETHN/G/27	1,059
Touchwood Antiques	216003	An 18th-century headrest and footrest of a wrought iron single bed	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/M/336	325
Paul Tanti Ltd	216004	18th-century ferro battuto double bed parts, two panels, four uprights and four brass finals	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETH-N/M/337	885
Antique Prints and Old Paper (eBay) Nick Raynes	215956	Engraving of various views of Ggantija titled: 'Temples dans l'isle de Gozo', by Lemaitre	Gozo Museum	G/PPD/2024/01	28
Paul Saliba	209148	Hand seal of Fra Jacques-François de Chambray	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005438	3,000
Work on Jimmy Farrugia collections by senior curators	various	Various artefacts consisting of glass, silver and flatware, maps, furniture and other object d'art.	GMP/ MUŻA / ETHN/MMM	Various	In kind

George De Gaetano	89700 - 14	Newspaper cutouts, two <i>Times of Malta</i> newspapers, a book titled <i>Il-Hajja tar-Re u r-Regina</i> , a souvenir programme, three booklets, small ceramic ashtray of Edward VIII, a metal coin showing Elizabeth II, one teapot commemorating the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, two teacups with the writing, a blue cover of an British exercise book, a framed photo of Queen Mary with Edward Prince of Wales and Prince Albert, and a framed print of King George V	Villa Guardamangia	VGM061 - VGM075	1,000
Josephine Micallef	N/A - Archive	Series of letters of Connie Cauchi to various people regarding Villa Guardamangia and the Royal Family	Villa Guardamangia	Archive	1,150
Czerny	TBA	Ottoman mail armour	National War Museum	TBA	5,500
Czerny	TBA	Ottoman kalkan (Buckler)	National War Museum	TBA	300
Czerny	TBA	Ottoman/Tufenk flintlock musket	National War Museum	TBA	4,800
Czerny	TBA	Quadrello da breccia	National War Museum	TBA	750
Czerny	TBA	Halberd	National War Museum	TBA	900
Czerny	TBA	Halberd	National War Museum	TBA	550
Czerny	TBA	Halberd	National War Museum	TBA	500
Czerny	TBA	Roncone	National War Museum	TBA	750
Czerny	TBA	Powder flask	National War Museum	TBA	450

Czerny	TBA	Iron powder flask	National War Museum	TBA	650
Olympia Auctions	TBA	Powder flask	National War Museum	TBA	350
Belgravia Auctions	233460	Silk handkerchief with three flags (one is Royal Navy ensign) and a rating photo dedicated to HMS <i>Russell</i>	National War Museum	NWM 4152	225
Noonans Online Auction	233466	Khedive Sudan Medal (1896-1908) pertaining to Chief Stoker E. Wick who served on HMS <i>Scout</i> . The warship had a connection with Malta. She was twice in Malta during 1898	National War Museum	NWM 4158	520
Luke Micallef	233471	Two receipts: a contribution of £1 by Emm. Farrugia to the Malta Fighter Fund & one life membership to Emm. Farrugia, from the Anglo-Maltese League	National War Museum	NWM 4163	
Czerny	TBA	Wheel lock spanner	Palace Armoury	PAR 6418	500
Vince Brown	TBA	Converted flintlock to percussion carbine bearing Order of St John markings	Palace Armoury	PAR 6419	650

The following items were purchased from the Jimmy Farrugia collection as payment in kind for extensive work done on the collection by HM senior curators

Registration No.	Object No.	Object Type	Description
MMM 005312	209211	Map	Plan of Valletta and its harbours; 19th century
MMM 005313. MS68	209155	Manuscript	Corona Poetica Offerta dagl'Arcadi All'Em. e Rev. Principe Fra Don Emanuele Pinto Gran Maestro ... in Occasione di ricevere il Pileo e lo Stocco benedetto dalla Santità di N.S. Papa Benedetto XIV; 18th century
MMM 005314. MS69	209156	Manuscript; Drawing	Un libro d'armi Di Galea Benedetto; Un libro d'armi Di Giuseppe Galea; 19th century?
MMM 005315	207172	Hourglass	Hourglass; 18th century
MMM 005316	209029	Painting	Crucifix with Cristo Morto and Cristo Vivo on opposite faces; 19th century

MMM 005317	209030	Painting	Gilt frame with double bust portrait of Grand Master Fra Nicolau Cotoner i d'Olesa and Grand Master Fra Rafael Cotoner i d'Olesa; 19th century
MMM 005474	209157	Map	De Eilanden van Malta, Goza, enz.
MMM 005475	209158	Map	A plan of the City of Malta
MMM 005476	209159	Map	Malta
MMM 005477	209160	Map	Plan des vieilles et Nouvelle Fortifications De Malthe Située dans l'Isle du même nom
MMM 005478	209161	Map	Maltha by Rob. Morden
MMM 005479	209162	Map	Malta
MMM 005480	209163	Map	Les Isles Occidentales De Sicie; Les Isles De Lipari Av Desvs De Sicile; La Valette Forte Place De Malte; L'Isle De Malte Avec Ses Voisines
MMM 005481	209164	Map	I. De Malte
MMM 005482	209165	Map	Stadt Valeta
MMM 005483	209166	Map	Malta maris medit. Ins.
MMM 005484	209167	Map	P. Bertii Il. Buch; Melita; Malta
MMM 005485	209168	Map	Isle De Malthe P.P. Dv Val G.O.D.R.
MMM 005486	209169	Map	La Città Della Valetta Nell'Isola Di Malta
MMM 005487	209170	Map	Melita; Malta Olim Melita Insvla
MMM 005488	209171	Map	Verissima Effigies Maltæ qvondam dicta Melitæ in Affrica depicta A'o.1717; 18th century
MMM 005489	209172	Map	Melita; Malta Olim Melita
MMM 005490	209173	Map	Descriptio Melitæ. Melita. Malta
MMM 005491	209174	Map	Malta. Melita
MMM 005492	209175	Map	Descrittione Dell'Isola Di Malta
MMM 005493	209176	Map	Die Insel Malta, vormahls Melita, mit den dazu gehörigen Inseln. Nro 454
MMM 005494	209177	Map	L'Isle De Malthe Possedée par les Chevaliers ... ou le Grand Maistre de cet Ordre fait sa residence. ... Observations la plus Grande partie des Geographes estimes cette Isle etre d'Afrique
MMM 005495	209178	Map	Carte Des Isles De Malte Et De Goze. Par le St. Robert Geog? Ord? Du Roi Avec Priv'
MMM 005496	209179	Map	PLAN Alt und Neuer Fortification von Malta gelegen auf der Insul gleiches Namens
MMM 005497	209180	Map	Malta od. Vallette auf der Insul Maltha [...]
MMM 005498	209181	Map	Les Isles de Malthe, Goze, Comin, Comito, [...] en La Mer Mediterranée

MMM 005499	209182	Map	Nouvelle Carte Delisle De Malthe, Dediée A Monseigneur Le Chevalier D'Orleans, General Des Galares De France
MMM 005500	209183	Map	Regnorum Siciliae Et Sardiniae nec non Melitae seu Maltae Insula cum adjectis Italiae et Africae Littoribus Nova Tabula [...]
MMM 005501	209184	Map	Melite Insvula vulgo Malta
MMM 005502	209185	Map	Valletta ou Valette Ville Forte de l'Isle De Malta
MMM 005503	209186	Map	Insularum Maltae et Gozae quae sunt Equitum S. Ioannis Hierosolimitani Ordinis Melit Sedes Principalis [...]
MMM 005504	209187	Map	D'Oude Schets Van Het Eyland Malta, alwaer, Paulus Na Zyn Schipbreuk Aenlandde. Act. XXVIII. 1
MMM 005505	209188	Map	Insvlae Melitae Vulgo MALTE Nova et accurata Descriptio
MMM 005506	209189	Map	Veue De La Cité Valette Et Du Grand Port De Malte
MMM 005507	209190	Map	Insvlarum Aliqvot Maris Mediterranei Descriptio; 16th century
MMM 005508	209191	Map	Malte Vuë de l'Entrée du Port
MMM 005509	209192	Map	Melite Insula vulge Malta.
MMM 005510	209193	Map	L'Isle de Malte, anciennement Melita, dans la Mer Mediterranée, avec ses Villes, Bourgs et Bayes, de nouveau publiée [...]
MMM 005511	209194	Map	Insula Malta accuratissime Delineata Urbibus et Fortalitiis [...]
MMM 005512	209195	Map	Isole di Malta e Gozzo di Sebastiano Pauli
MMM 005513	209196	Map	Insvulae Maltae nova et accurata Tabvla. Accurante Christophoro Weigelio Norimbergæ
MMM 005514	209197	Map	Valletta and its Environs
MMM 005515	209198	Map	Carte Des Isles De Malte Du Goze et Du Cuming Avec la position des Batteries et des Redoutes faites pour la deffence de la Coste
MMM 005516	209199	Map	Isola di Malta Gozzo Comino e Cominotto cavata dalle piu recenti notizie, e data in luce da Gio. Giacomo de Rossi dalle sue stampe in Roma alla Pace con Priv.o del S. Pont.e l'anno 1686.; Pianta Delle Fortificationi Vecchie e Nove di Malta; 17th century
MMM 005517	209200	Map	Valletta and its Environs

MMM 005518	209201	Map	Valletta Citta Nova di Malta
MMM 005519	209202	Map	Nieuwe Kaart van't Eiland Maltha met Gozo en Comino Waar in de plaatzing der Reduiten en Batterijen, die tot de Vervediging von de Kust gemaakt zyn aangewezen werdt [...] 1761; 18th century
MMM 005520	209203	Map	Insularvm Corsicæ Sardiniae Melitæ Accurata Descriptio ex mente veterum Geographorum
MMM 005521	209204	Map	Valetta Civitas Nova Maltæ olim Millitæ
MMM 005522	209205	Map	Calaris; Malta; Rhodvs; Famagvusta
MMM 005523	209206	Map	Novissima et Accuratissima Regnorvm et Insularum Siciliæ et Sardiniae Hydro-Geographica Exhibitio [...] Sicilia, Sardinia, Corsica, Malta [...]; 18th century
MMM 005524	209207	Map	Mappa Geographica totius Insulæ et Regni Siciliæ [...]
MMM 005525	209208	Map	Valetta Civitas Nova Maltæ olim Millitæ
MMM 005526	209209	Map	Nieuwe Afteekening van de Eylanden van Gozo en Melite of Malta met desselfs Haven Stad Kasteelen en Sterktens, geleege in de Middellandsche Zee. Te Amsterdam by Gerard Van Keulen Boek en Zee-kaart Verkooper aen de Nieuwen-brug met Previlegie voor 15 laere; Verklaring van de Hoofdstad van t Eyland Malta
MMM 005527	209210	Map	Les Villes Forts e Châteaux de Malte Capitale de l'Isle ... Ports et Fortifications, etant le Boulvart de la Chrestiente et le sejour ordinaire des Chevaliers de l'Ordre de St. Jean de Jerusalem. [...]
MMM 005529	209231	Drawing	Street view of Senglea with the 'Madonna tan-Nofs' in view
MMM 005530	209232	Print	H.M.S. <i>Hastings</i> . Captain John Lawrence C.B. In the Malta Dockyard Dece[mbe]r 7. 1840
MMM 005531	209233	Print	Veduta del Gran Porto di Malta e della Valletta. A Sua Ecce[llenz]a Rev[erendissi]ma Monsig[no]r Grech Delicata Patrizio Maltese, Chierico della R.C.A. Presidente delle Zecche Pontificie &.&

Rare books at the Malta Maritime Museum from the Jimmy Farrugia collection

Reg. No.	Description
MMM.RB60	Della Guerra Di Rhodi Libri III, Autore Iacopo Fontano Giurise. Aggiunta la discrizione dell'Isola di Malta, concessa à Cavalieri dopo che Rhodi fu preso. Il modo del governarsi con la bussola in mare per i venti, di Gio. Quintino. Inoltre un Commentario dell'Isola di Rhodi, e dell'ordine di Cavalieri de quella. Vinegia, 1545
MMM.RB61	The Policy and Interest of Great Britain with respect to Malta, summarily considered. London, 1805
MMM.RB62	Malthe, Corse, Minorque et Gibraltar. 1897
MMM.RB63	La Vallette. I Turchi a Malta nel 1565. Malta, 1850
MMM.RB64	Aphorismi Inquisitorum In Quatuor Libros Distributi. Lugduni (Lyon), 1669
MMM.RB65	L'Ultimo Periodo della Storia di Malta sotto il Governo dell'Ordine Gerosolimitano; Ovvero Frammento dell'Istoria di Malta, Che comprende la Serie degli Avvenimenti più interessanti di quest'Isola, dagli ultimi anni del Magistero di Fra Emanuele Pinto de Fonçeca fino all'Invasione dell'istessa Isola dalle Armi Repubblicane. Scritto nell'anno 1825 dal Canonico Fortunato Panzavecchia. Malta, 1835
MMM.RB66	Recollections Abroad, during the year 1790. Sicily and Malta. By Sir Richard Colt Hoare, Bart. Bath, 1817. Signed by the author in 1823
MMM.RB67	Recherches Historiques et Politiques sur Malte, par Honorés Brès (de Malte.). Paris, An VI (1797-8)
MMM.RB68	Il Grande Assedio di Malta nel 1565 Narrato Brevemente da Gaetano Gauci. Malta, 1891
MMM.RB69	Von der Insul Maltha, und denen ben derselben gelegenen Insuln, Goze, Cominot, Comine, Farfara. A German translation of the Malta chapter in Alain Manesson Mallet's Description de l'Univers. After 1683
MMM.RB70	Crispo-Barbaro's Nobles of Malta, Second Edition. Malta, 1883
MMM.RB71	Histoire de Pierre d'Aubusson Grand-Maistre de Rhodes. Seconde Édition. Paris, 1677.
MMM.RB72	Malthe, Ou Lisle-Adam, Dernier Grand-Maitre De Rhodes, et Premier Grand-Maitre De Malthe, POËME. Paris, 1749
MMM.RB73	Regola, e Constitutioni Delle Religiose Dell'Ordine di S. Gio: Battista Gerosolimitano. Di Nuovo Ordinate, essaminate, & approvate per il Monastero di S. Orsola di Malta. Dall' Eminentissimo, e Reverendissimo Signore Gran Maestro Fra D.Gregorio Carafa Nell'anno del Signore 1681
MMM.RB74	M.Tullii Ciceronis Orantionum Selectarum, Quarum in Scholis est frequentior usus, & ad praecepta tradenda facilius stylus. Naples, 1792
MMM.RB75	Rime di Diversi in Lode De' Signori Cavalieri di Malta, Rome, 1567

MMM.OO5551. MS72	Canzonete in Lingua Maltese - 1825 - Giuseppe Zammit Padrone
MMM.RB77	Breve e Particolare Istruzione Del Sacro Ordine Militare Degli Ospitalari, Detto oggidì volgarmente Di Malta, E della diversa qualità di Persone, e di Gradi che lo compongono. Stesa da un Cavalier Professo della medesima Religione. Edizione Seconda, arricchita della Parafrasi al Salmo Xli. composta dallo stesso Autore. Padova, 1724
MMM.RB78	Historical Catechism on the most important subjects, relating to the Islands of Malta, and Gozo, for the instruction of children in English and Italian By G. Ant. Michallef. Malta, 1831
MMM.RB79	Tariffa di Diverse Monete Forestiere Ridotte in Moneta di Malta, con buon ordine, e perfezione. Malta, 1756
MMM.RB80	Trattato Della Povertà de' Cavalieri di Malta, Raccolto dal su Venerando Priore di Lombardia Garavita. Borgo Novo, 1718
MMM.RB81	La Vision di Polinnia Canto in Lode di Sua Altezza Emintissima F.D. Francesco Ximenes de Texada Gran Maestro Dell'Ordine Gerosolimitano Principe di Malta, Gozo, Rodi, E del Reale Dominio di Tripoli Ecc. Di Luigi Godard C. R. Delle Scuole Pie Professore di Eloquenza nella Università fra gli Arcadi Cimante Messenio Recitato Da' Signori Scolari Della Eloquenza in Occasione di Pubblica Accademia. Malta, 1773
MMM.RB82	Historical Records of the Maltese Corps of the British Army. Compiled by Major A. G. Chesney. London, 1897
MMM.RB83	Statuta Hospitalis Hierusalem, 1588
MMM.RB84	Compendio Delle Mature Contenute nel Codice del Sacro Militare Ordine Gerosolimitano. Malta, 1783
MMM.RB85	Compendio Delle Mature Contenute Nel Codice Del Sacro Militare Ordine Gerosolimitano. Malta, 1783
MMM.OO5552. MS73	Trattato Pella Zecca, 18th century?
MMM.RB87	Medaglie Rappresentanti I Piu Gloriosi Avvenimenti Del Magistero Di S.A.E. Fra D.Emmanuele Pinto. Opera di Paolo Maria Paciaudi Teatino. Ca. 1748
MMM.RB88	De Antiqua Inscriptione Nuper Effossa in Melitae Urbe Notabili Dissertatio Comitiss Johannis Antonii Ciantar, 1749
MMM.RB89	O. F. Tencajoli, Luciano Bonaparte a Malta (1810) Al Cavaliere Giuseppe Dermanin Demajo con sentita e cordiale amicizia. Estratto di Mediterranea - Anno VIII - N° 5-6 - Ottobre 1934-VII. Cagliari, 1934
MMM.RB90	Memoire a Consulter, et Consultation pour la ville d'Aix, au sujet de la franchise des Rêves & Impositions réclamée par l'Ordre de Malte, en vertu de ses prétendus privileges
MMM.RB91	La Circolare di S.E. L'Ambtore. Apco. E Sua Corrispondenza Con S.E. Il Governatore Intorno alla Crisi Monetaria, 1885

MMM.RB92	A journal of the forces which sailed from the Downs, in April 1800, On a Secret Expedition under the Command of Lieut.-Gen. Pigot, till their arrival in Minorca; and continued through all the subsequent transactions of the army under the command of the Right Hon. General Sir Ralph Abercromby, K.B. in the Mediterranean and Egypt; and the latter operations under the command of Lieutenant-General Lord Hutchinson, K.B. to the surrender of Alexandria: with A particular account of Malta, during the time it was subject to the British Government. By Aeneas Anderson, Lieut. 40th Reg. London, 1802
MMM.RB93	Mémoire Historique et Politique sur le Vrais Intérêts de la France et de l'Ordre de Malte. Paris, 1797
MMM.RB94	The Claims of the Maltese; founded upon the Principles of Justice. By George Mitrovich. London, 1835
MMM.RB95	Memorias da Ordem Militar de S.Joaõ de Malta, Offerecidas a Elrey Nosso Senhor D. Joaõ O V. O Magnifico. Lisbon, 1734
MMM.RB96	A Converção dos Habitantes da Ilha de Malta por S.Paulo Apostolo de N.Senhor Jesus Christo. Drama Original em Quatro Actos. Ponta Delgada, 1857
MMM.RB97	Memorie Storiche Della Resa Di Malta ai Francesi nel 1798 e del S. M. Ordine Gerosolimitano dal Detto Anno ai Nostri Giorni corredate di documenti inediti per L'Avv. F. Giuseppe Terrinoni C. Commendatore del Medesimo Ordine. Rome, 1867
MMM.RB98	La Sacra Croce dell'Eminentissimo Ordine di S. Giovanni Gerosolimitano. Dissertazione dell'Abbate D. Giuseppe Giacomo Testaferatta De' Marchesi di S. Vincenzo Ferreri, Cavaliere Torneario del Sac. Rom. Imperio, Accademico del Buon Gusto &c. Malta, 1760
MMM.RB99	Privileges des Papes Empereurs Roys et Princes de la Crestienté en Faveur de Lordre S. leande Hierusalem. Recueillis par le. Sr. Chevallier des Clozeaulx Agent dudict ordre en France. Premier Edition. Paris, 1659
MMM.RB100	Privileges des Papes Empereurs Roys et Princes de la Crestienté en faveur de Lordre S. lean de Hierusalem. Recueillis par le. Sr. Chevallier des Clozeaulx Agent dudict ordre en France. Seconde Edition. Paris, 1649
MMM.RB101	Historia della Sacra Religione Militare di S. Giovanni Gerosolimitano detta di Malta. Del Sig. Comendator Fr. Bartolomeo dal Pozzo Veronese. Venice, 1715.
MMM.RB102	RECUEIL De 163. des principaux Plans des Ports et Rades de la Mediterranée dont 40 on été dernièrement publiés par Jean Joseph Allezard ancien Capitaine de Marine et plusier des autres corrigés. Livorno, 1817
MMM.RB103	Il Giornale della Scuola della Senglea, 1860-1
MMM.RB104	Dell'Istoria della Sacra Religione et Ill.ma Militia di San Giovanni Gerosolimitano di Iacomo Bosio Parte Prima. Rome, 1594; Dell'Istoria della Sacra Religione et Ill.ma Militia di San Giovanni Gerosolimitano di Iacomo Bosio Parte Seconda. Rome, 1594;
MMM.RB105	Dell'Istoria della Sacra Religione et Ill.ma Militia di San Giovanni Gerosolimitano di Iacomo Bosio Parte Terza. Rome, 1602

MMM.RB106	Missae Propriae Sanctorum Celebrandae ab Ordine Hierosolymitano, Vel a Clero Diaecesis Melitensis. Malta, 1758
MMM.RB107	Statuti della Sac. Religione di S.Gio. Gerosolimitano. Con Le Ordinationi dell' Ultimo Capitolo Generale Celebrato nell'anno 1631. dal sù Em°. e Rev°, Grã Mr° Frà Antonio de Paula. Borgo Nuovo. 1718
MMM.RB108	Extract from Neuwe Archontologia cosmica, das ist Beschreibung alle Kayserthumben, Königreichen und Republicken der gantzen Welt, die keinen Höhern by Johann Ludwig Gottfried (1584-1633) and with contributions by Matthaeus Merian The Elder (1593-1650), Franckfurt Am Mayn, 1638. pp. 741-60. Includes print of Valletta by the latter between pages 744-745
MMM.RB109	Ancient Pottery from the Ancient Pagan Tombs and Christian Cemeteries in the Islands of Malta by Dr. A. A. Caruana. Malta, 1899
MMM.RB110	Ancient and Modern MALTA: Containing A Full And Accurate Account of the Present State of the Islands of Malta and Goza, The History of The Knights of St John of Jerusalem, also A Narrative of the Events which attended the Capture Of These Islands By The French, And Their Conquest By The English; and An Appendix, Containing Authentic State-Papers And Other Documents, by Louis de Boisgelin, Knight of Malta, Volume One. London, 1805
MMM.RB111	Malta Illustrata ovvero Descrizione di Malta Isola del Mare Siciliano e Adriatico, con le sue Antichità, ed Altre Notizie, divisa in Quattro Libri, del Commendatore F. Giovanfrancesco Abela, Vice-Cancelliere della Sagra, ed Eminentissima Religione Gerosolimitana, Corretta, Accresciuta, e Continovata dal Conte Giovannantonio Ciantar [...] Libro Primo, e Secondo. Malta, 1772
MMM.RB112	Malta Illustrata ovvero Descrizione di Malta Isola del Mare Siciliano e Adriatico, con le sue Antichità, ed Altre Notizie, divisa in Quattro Libri, del Commendatore F. Giovanfrancesco Abela, Vice-Cancelliere della Sagra, ed Eminentissima Religione Gerosolimitana, Corretta, Accresciuta, e Continovata dal Conte Giovannantonio Ciantar [...] Libro Terzo, e Quarto. Malta, 1780
MMM.RB113	Descrittione di Malta del Commendatore Abela. 1647
MMM.RB114	Journal of the Late Campaign in Egypt: including Descriptions of that Country, and of Gibraltar, Minorca, Malta, Marmorice, and Macri [...] By Thomas Walsh. London, 1803
MMM.RB115	Ancient and Modern MALTA: Containing A Full And Accurate Account of the Present State of the Islands of Malta and Goza, The History of The Knights of St John of Jerusalem, also A Narrative of the Events which attended the Capture Of These Islands By The French, And Their Conquest By The English; and An Appendix, Containing Authentic State-Papers And Other Documents, by Louis de Boisgelin, Knight of Malta, Volume Two. London, 1805
MMM.RB116	Raccolta di Varie Cose Antiche e Moderne Utili ed Interessanti Riguardanti Malta e Gozo. Malta, 1843
MMM.RB117	Malta bil Ghzejer Tahha u Li Ghadda min Ghalih. Xoghol P.P. Castagna. Volume I. Malta, 1865

MMM.RB118	The Militiaman at Home and Abroad; being The History of A Militia Regiment, from its first training to its disembodiment; with Sketches of the Ionian Islands, Malta, and Gibraltar. By Emeritus (J.E. Prower?). London, 1857
MMM.RB119	Malta Nobile Illustrata Coi Dornmenti, e Colla Storia dal Can. Cap. Vincenzo Caruana dei Conti Gatto. Malta, 1903
MMM.RB120	Origine della Sovranità Inglese su Malta. Mons. Alfredo Can. Mifsud, Malta, 1907
MMM.RB121	Conte Carlo Sanminiatielli Zabarella, Colonnello, Lo Assedio di Malta 18 Maggio - 8 Settembre 1565. Torino, 1902
MMM.RB122	Malta Antica Illustrata co'Monumenti, e Coll'Istoria dal Prelato Onorato Bres. Rome, 1816
MMM.RB123	Ragioni della Sacra Religione Gerosolimitana e Del Suo Gran Maestro Per la esenzione della pretesa Regia Visita della Chiesa Vescovile di questa Isola di Malta, 1751?
MMM.RB124	Notizia de' Vocaboli Ecclesiastici. Con La Dichiaratione Delle Cerimonie, & Origine delli Riti Sacri, Voci Barbare, e Frasi usate da' Santi Padri, Concilij, e Scrittori Ecclesiastici. Raccolta da Domenico Magri Maltese. Rome, 1669
MMM.RB125	Révolution de Malta en 1798; Gouvernement, Principes, Loix, Statuts de l'Ordre Réponse au Manifeste du Prieuré de Russie. Par Mr. Le Chev. De M**** (Meyer?). 1799
MMM.RB126	Comentarii d'Antonfrancesco Cigni Corso, Ne Quali Si Descrive La Guerra ultima di Francia, la celebratione del Concilio Tridentino, il soccorso d'Orano, l'impresa del Pignone, e l'Historia dell'assedio di Malta diligentissimamente raccolta insieme con altre cose notabili. Rome, 1567
MMM.RB127	Victor F. Denaro, The Houses of Valletta, Malta, 1967
MMM.RB128	Giovanni Battista Tebaldi, La Historia dell'Impresa di Tripoli di Barberia, della Presa del Pegnon di Velez della Gomera in Africa, Et del successo della potentissima armata Turchesca, venuta sopra l'isola di Malta l'anno 1565. La descrizione dell'Isola di Malta. Il disegno dell'Isola delle Zerbe, & del Forte, fattovi da Christiani, & la sua descrizione. 1566
MMM.RB129	Recherches Historiques et Politiques sur Malte, par ***, Ornées de Gravures, représentant les Médailles antiques, et de la Carte de cette Isle, par le Citoyen CAPITAINE. Paris, An VII (1798-9)
MMM.RB130	Grammatica della Lingua Maltese di Michelantonio Vassalli. Second Edition. Malta, 1827
MMM.RB131	Letters from Portugal, Spain, Sicily, and Malta. In 1812, 1813, and 1814. By G. A. F. H. B. London, 1875
MMM.RB132	La Grotta di San Paolo a Malta. Considerazioni Archeologo-Critiche del Sacerdote Giovanni Gatt Said. Malta, 1863
MMM.RB133	Il Memorabile Assedio di Malta del 1565. Storia in Compendio desunta dai più Accreditati Contemporanei e Corredata di Annotazioni per Ferdinando Giglio. Malta, 1853

MMM.RB134	Description of Malta and Gozo by George Percy Badger: With Some Additional Illustrations Of The Present State Of The Islands By The Editor. Second Edition. Valletta, 1851
MMM.RB135	Travels Through Sicily and Malta: From the French of M. De Non, Perth, 1790
MMM.RB136	Hieronymus Megiser, Propugnaculum Europae. Warhaffte/eigentliche und außführliche Beschreibung der viel und weitberühmten africanischen Insul Malta: Welche dieser Zeit des hochlöblichen Johanniter Ritter Ordens Residens, Leipzig, 1606
MMM.RB137	A Brief History of the Voyage of Katharine Evans and Sarah Cheevers, to the Island of Malta, Where the Apostle Paul Suffer'd Shipwreck. And their Cruel Sufferings in the Inquisition there, for near Four Years; occasion'd by the Malice of the Monks and Friars against them, and their several Conferences with them : And how they came to be Deliver'd from thence, and their safe Return Home to England. London, 1715
MMM.RB138	Reflexions Politiques sur l'Etat et Les Devoirs des Chevaliers de Malthe, Par Mr. Le Chevalier Luc de Boyer d'Argens. La Haye, 1739
MMM.RB139	Principj Elementari delle Belle-Lettere Opera del Sig. Formey. Naples, 1767
MMM.RB140	Considérations Politiques et Commerciales, Sur la nécessité de maintenir l'Ordre de Malte tel qu'il est. Par Monsieur de Mayer. 1790
MMM.RB141	Malte Par Un Voyageur François, 1791
MMM.RB142	Story Of A Visit to The "Dried Monks" of Floriana. A Tale of Malta by Colonel N. R. Raven. Valletta, 1887
MMM.RB143	Il Valore Maltese Difeso Da Carlo Magri Della Valletta, Contro Le Calunnie Di Girolamo Brusoni. Rome, 1667
MMM.RB144	Ordo Recitandi Divinum Officium Missasque Celebrandi Juxtà Ritum Breviarj, Missalisque Romani Pro Anno Bisextili MDCCXXIV. Additis Officiis, que in Cathedrali Melitensi Doctori Gentium Patrono, ac Patri dicata celebrantur. Jussu Illustris, Et Reverendiss, Domini F.D. Gasparis Gori Mancini Patritii Senensis [...], Naples, 1724
MMM.RB145	Nouvelle Relation Du Voyage Et Description Exacte E De L'Isle De Malthe, Dans L'Estat Ov Elle est à present, & que les Autheurs qui en ont cy-devant escrit, n'ont jamais observée. Avec Des Particularitez du Levant. Par Un Gentilhomme François. Paris, 1679
MMM.RB146	Office De La Vierge, Sans Renvoy. A L'Usage Des Chevaliers De L'Ordre De Malte. Paris, 1741
MMM.RB147	Ordo Divini Officii Recitandi Sacrique Peragendi In S. Cathed. Archiep. Eccl. Melitens. Ejusque Dioecesi Pro Anno MDCCCXLII. Illustrissimi, Et Reverendissimi Domini D. Francisci Xaverii Caruana, [...] Malta, 1842

MMM.RB148	Hieronymus Megiser, Delitiae Ordinum Equestrium. als benantlich Zween kurtze / doch außführliche Tractat / von dem hochlöblichen Ritterstand: In deren Ersten / in gemein alle fürnembste Orden und Sorten der Ritter / so in der ganken Christenheit zu finden: sampt ihrem underscheid und Stiftungen / gründlich angezeigt werden. Im Undern aber / in Specie, ein sonderbahre particular beschreibung / des weitberühmten Johanniter Ritter Ordens / und desselben jeßiger Residenß / der namhafften Insul Malta, begriffen ist [...]. Leipzig, 1617
MMM.RB149	Allmanach auf das Jar nach der Gnadenreichen Geburt unsers Sligmachers Herrn Iesu Christi MDCCLXXIII. In Besizung des Päbstl. Stuhls Ihro Päbstl. Heiligkeit Clementis XIV. In Regierung Ihro Röm. Kay. Maj. Josephi, II. Als Röm. Kay. das Ste.lahr. Sr.Hoch Fürstl. Gnaden Iohann Baptist als Obristen meistern in Teutschen Landen das 19.te lahr. 1773
MMM.RB150	Reisen durch Sicilien und Maltha, und von den Revolutionen, so dieses Land erlitten hat. [...] Bern, 1796
MMM.RB151	Sails D.191
MMM.RB152	George Waring, Letters from Malta and Sicily, addressed to A Young Naturalist. London, 1843
MMM.RB153	The Historical Guide To The Island of Malta And Its Dependencies. Dedicated to Henry Ponsonby. By Giuseppe Periccioli Borzesi of Siena. Malta, 1830
MMM.RB154	Ordo Recitandi Divini Officii et Missae Celebranda, In Dioecesi Melitensi sedulo servandus Pro Anno Bissextili M.DCCC.VIII. Additis Officiis quae in ejusd. Archiep. & Cath. Eccl. D.O. M. [...] D. Josephi Bartholomæi Xerri [...]. Malta, 1808
MMM.RB155	Ordo Recitandi Divini Officii Sacrique Peragendi In S. Archiep. Cathed. Eccles. Melitensi Ejusque Dioecesi Servandus, Pro Anno Bissextili M:DCCCXVI Excellentissimi et Reverendissimi Domini Fratris D. Ferdinandi Mattei [...]. Malta, 1816
MMM.RB156	Ordo Recitandi Divini Officii Et Missæ Celebrandæ In Diocesi Melitensi sedulo servandus Anno MDCCCV. Additis Officiis quae in ejusd. Archiep. & Cath. Eccl. D.O.M. In honorem Doctoris Gentium ac Patris dicata celeb. [...] Fr, Vincentii Labini [...]. 1805
MMM.RB157	Breve Compendio della Storia di Malta [...] Compilato dal Giudice P. De Bono [...]. Malta, 1899
MMM.RB158	Ordo Divini Officii Recitandi Sacriq. Peragendi in S. Cathedr. Archiep. Eccles. Melit. Ejusque Dioecesi Pro Anno MDCCCXXV. [...] Fr. D. Ferdinandi Mattei [...]. Malta, 1825
MMM.RB159	Ordo Divini Officii Recitandi Sacrique Peragendi In S. Cathed. Archiep. Eccl. Melitens. Ejusque Dioecesi Pro Anno MDCCCXXXI. Illmi Et Revmi Domini D. Francisci Xaverii Caruana, [...] Malta, 1831
MMM.RB160	Alcune Occhiate a Malta Di Pietro Perolari-Malmignati. Padova, 1870
MMM.RB161	Liste De Messieurs Les Chevaliers, Chapelains Conventuels, et Servants D'Armes Des Trois Vénérables Langues de Provence, Auvergne, et France. Malta, 1787

MMM.RB162	Thomas MacGill, A Handbook, or Guide, for Strangers Visiting Malta. Malta, 1839
MMM.RB163	Istruzioni Sopra Gli Obblighi Più Principali De' Cavalieri Di Malta Cavate da alcune Osservazioni, fatte da uno di detti Cavalieri di Francia [...] Ora tradotte in Lingua Italiana, ad istanza d'un' altro Cavaliere Italiano della medesima Religione. Rome, 1713
MMM.RB164	Mémoires Historiques sur L'Invasion Et L'Occupation De Malte Par Une Armée Française, En 1798, Par Pierre-Jean-Louis-Ovide Doublet [...] Paris, 1883
MMM.RB165	Mémoire Sur le Procès pendant à l'Audience du Lundi. Entre Messire De Foresta, Commandeur, Receveur-Général de l'Ordre de Malte au Grand-Prieuré de St, Gilles [...] Et Messire Louis-Antoine De Cipieres de la ville de Marseille, appellant, demandeur & défendeur [...]. 1783
MMM.RB166	Rapport sur Plusieurs Questions Proposées à la Société Royale de Médecine, par M. L'Ambassadeur de la Religion, de la part de son Altesse Eminentissime Monseigneur Le Grand Maître: Relativement aux inconvénients que l'ouverture des Caveaux destinés aux Sépultures d'une des Eglises Paroissiales de l'Isle de Malte pourroit occasionner, & aux moyens de les prévenir, dans lequel, après avoir exposé les dangers des inhumations & des exhumations dans les Eglises, on indique les précautions à prendre dans la fouille d'un terrain suspect [...] Malta, 1781
MMM.RB167	Orphei Delphici Pastoris Ætnei Etc, Epigrammata Ad Ignatium Paternum Biscaris Principem Amplissimum. Malta, 1784
MMM.RB168	Elogio Funebre di Mons. Publio M. De'Conti Sant Gia' Arciv: Di Rodi e Vescovo di Malta Letto Nella S. Arciv: Chiesa Cattedrale di Malta il 30 Ottobre 1864 Dal Prof. Giorgio Caruana Canonico della medesima. Malta, 1864
MMM.RB169	Ragionamento Sopra La Bolla Della Crociata Recitato in Malta nella Maggior Chiesa Conventuale di S. Giovanni Batista nella Domenica di Settuagesima Dell'anno MDCCLXXV. Dal Padre Maestro F. Gaetano Maria Garrasi Agostiniano [...] Consecrato A Sua Altezza Serenissima F.D. Francesco Ximenez De Texada [...] Malta, 1775
MMM.RB170	Composizioni Dette nel Vescovil Seminario di Malta in una Academia In Lode Di Sua Altezza Serenissima Fra Emanuele De Rohan Gran-Maestro Del Sagr' Ordine Gerosolimitano, Principe Di Malta, Gozo e del Real Dominio di Tripoli ecc, [...] Malta, 1776
MMM.RB171	Di S. Pubblio Martire Proto E Vescovo Di Malta Indi Di Atene Dissertazione Del Can:co D.Giuseppe Giacomo Testaferatta De Marchesi Di S. Vincenzo Ferreri, Malta, 1778
MMM.RB172	Développement De La Motion De M. Camus, Relativement A L'Ordre De Malte. Imprimé par ordre de l'Assemblée. Circa 1792?
MMM.RB173	The Malta Penny Magazine. First Quarter and Supplement. From September to December 1839. Valletta, 1839
MMM.RB174	Malta Penny Magazine. No. 51. Saturday, August 29th. 1840. Valletta, 1840
MMM.RB177	Malta bil Ghzejer Tahha u li Ghadda min Ghaliha, P.P. Castagna

Purchases by Government Entities

From	Obj. No.	Description	Ministry	Price €
Christian Debono	247459	The Calling, by Rachel Micallef	Ministry for National Heritage and Local Government	380
Dar Bjorn	207766	St John Cathedral, by Joanne Mizzi	Ministry for National Heritage and Local Government	449

i. **Donations**

Donated by	Object number	Object detail	Collection	Ref number
Annamaria Gatt	89652	Metal Malta souvenir lighter depicting Fort St Angelo 1970s-80s	Fort St Angelo	FSA 465
Angelo Briffa	207170	An original handwritten Christmas menu of HMS St Angelo 1942	Fort St Angelo	FSA 466
Angelo Briffa	207171	An invitation addressed to the Royal Navy Barracks of Fort Ricasoli for a 'Grand Staff Dance' on Friday 17 May 1946	Fort St Angelo	FSA 467
Angelo Briffa	207177	Certificate of the Service of Angelo Xuereb in the Royal Navy with a scanned image of his photo, 1922	Fort St Angelo	FSA 468
Angelo Briffa	207174	Original 1940s postcard titled 'Christmas and New Year Greetings to Mother Country from The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier'	Fort St Angelo	FSA 469
Angelo Briffa	207176	Original 1940s postcard titled 'Christmas greetings and every good wish for the coming New Year from...'	Fort St Angelo	FSA 470

Angelo Briffa	207175	1940s original ticket from the Secretary of the Admiralty transmitting the awards for the service during WWII	Fort St Angelo	FSA 471
Spiridione Cassar	89369	Original Royal Navy 1960s summer uniform	Fort St Angelo	FSA 451
Oreste Callus	208027	1940s original winter junior rating uniform	Fort St Angelo	FSA 473
Charles Gatt	89693	Unplugged artwork consisting other pieces such as a cello, two guitars, a chair and an accordion	MUŻA	FAS/MISC/240
Chris Ebejer	89565	Zeus from L'Eredita Series	MUŻA	FAS/S/471
Adrian Abela	89697	Model of the paper memory machine	MUŻA	FAS/MISC/242
Francesca Balzan and Glen Calleja	89778	A book of patterns: Objects from the National Collection	MUŻA	FAS/D/2272
Joseph Farrugia	FAS/P/2747	Lazarus wardrobe	MUŻA	FAS/P/2747
Therese Cuschieri	207172	Allegory of the triumph of the Order of St John over the Ottoman Turks – proposal for ceiling painting at the Auberge de Castille	MUŻA	FAS/D/1894
Jospeh Schiro	219001	A chromolithograph map entitled plan of Malta and Gozo dated 1879	MUŻA	FAS/MAPS/729
Patrick J. Fenech	219022	Caged Spaces I, Mgarr, Gozo	MUŻA	FAS/PHOTO/461
Dr. Daniel Gullo	219024	Blessing Cup, by Richard Bresnahan	MUŻA	FAS/C/150
Ganado Family	207269-70	Eleven engravings by Giovanni Farrugia	MUŻA / ETHN/MMM/GOZO	FAS/PR/1160-1170
Anthony Zammit	89881	Douglas combined protractor and parallel rule	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005441

Anthony Zammit	89882	Map of "Isola di Lampedusa to Capo Passero including Malta" 1979	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005442
N. Bianchi	207143	Libro de conti correnti di Sig.r Michele Caruana	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005443
Lawrence Cacciattolo	207142	Framed tapestry of steam sail ship	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005445
Joe Meli	207141	Malta drydocks corporation badge	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005444
Antoinette Catania	209147, 209149	Kukri with sheath and a photo album of Emmanuel Catania personal butler of Admiral Sir Charles Lambe	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005437, MMM 005449.27
F. Wismayer	209152, 209153	Scale model of Pamir and scale model of Golden Hind	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005454, MMM 005455
Ivan Cocker	209151	Scale model of USAF Consolidated B-24D Liberator	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005451
Giuseppe Razza	207167	Quarantine instructions issued by Malta quarantine officials	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005220.MS64
Giuseppe Razza	207168	Letter of congratulations by Grand Master Pinto to the King of the Two Sicilies Ferdinand I on his accession to the throne	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005221.MS65
Giuseppe Razza	207169	Document attesting to the state of health on the Maltese Islands, 1814	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005222.MS66

Caroline Marmara, Felicity Camilleri, Vanessa Attard, Rowena Cutajar (Capt. J.M. Wismayer family)	89699	17th-century watercolour of the <i>Mograbina</i> , re-christened as <i>Santa Maria</i>	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005233
Stephen A. Petroni	89698	Chernikeeff Log	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005235
Lawrence Cacciattolo	207142	Steam/sail-ship surrounded by embroidered flags	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005445
George Sultana	207153	Malta Drydocks apprentice flag with rope	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005446
George Sultana	207154	Malta Shipbuilding flag with rope	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005447
P. Mangion	209150	Negative and positive of a 16-ton hydraulic capstan	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005450
Giuseppe Razza	209213	Letter by Grand Master Pinto on the good work of the Malta Lazzaretto in placing into quarantine the tartana of Padroni Ferrante Scarpato and Baldassarre di Tanni	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005457.MS71
Zammit Maempel family	209214	Trunk of Baron Maximilian Tucher von Simmersdorf (1845-1919)	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005458
Zammit Maempel family	209215	Collection of sacks	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005459
Zammit Maempel family	209216	Bedpan	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005460

Zammit Maempel family	209217	Bedpan	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005461
Zammit Maempel family	209218	Folding bed rest	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005462
Zammit Maempel family	209219	Electric clothes iron	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005463
Zammit Maempel family	209220	Two carpet beaters	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005464
Zammit Maempel family	209221	Children's toy cart	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005465
Zammit Maempel family	209222	Deck chair with 'Canna d 'India' reed work	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005466
Zammit Maempel family	209223	Doctor's bag or case	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005467
Zammit Maempel family	209224	Doctor's clinic basin	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005468
Zammit Maempel family	209225	AB 23 cluster bomb dispenser for SD 2 butterfly bombs	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005469
Zammit Maempel family	209226	Aerial bomb	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005470
Zammit Maempel family	209227	Two boxes with presumed aircraft components	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005471
Zammit Maempel family	209228	Two British Mk.II helmets	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005472
Alex Kontiveis	209230	Model of Gloster Sea Gladiator Mk. I N5520 'Faith' 1:48	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005528

Architect Wayne Scerri on behalf of Mario Bugeja	76166-81	Collection of items from a wheelwright shop in Żejtun containing metal, wooden and stone items	Ethnography	ETHN/M/998-1005, ETHN/ST/16-17, ETHN/W/425 (i-ii), ETHN/W/426 (i-ii), ETHN/W/427-30
Prof. Kevin Aquilina	76184-86	Three zinc washing basins/tubs	Ethnography	ETHN/M/1006-1008
Espedito Cassar	76098-76107	A collection of various printing blocks for bottle labels and a paper receipt used by M. Cassar & Sons	Ethnography	ETHN/M/989 (i-ii), ETHN/M/990 (i-iii), ETHN/M/991 (i-ii), ETHN/M/992 (i-iv), ETHN/M/993 (i-iii), ETHN/M/994 (i-ii), ETHN/M/995 (i-iii), ETHN/M/996, ETHN/PL/78 (i-iii), ETHN/PAP/1246
Pierre Bonello	76187	Commemorative tile of the 30th anniversary of local government in cardboard box	Ethnography	ETHN/CER/127
Benamina Attard	76182	19 machine lace samples mounted on light blue paper made by Wilhelm Scheffknecht, Austria	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2647
Benamina Attard	76108	Framed certificate with attached silver medal for the Malta Preliminary show 1923, British Empire Exhibition 1924 awarded to Mary Vella for cotton crochet work	Ethnography	ETHN/FR/45
Geraldine Rizzo	76211-3	Three 1910s black hats such as a bowler hat, a top hat and a feather weight top hat	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2672-4
John Zarb	76240	Commemorative tie 2017 Malta EU presidency	Ethnography	ETHN/ F/ 2675
Treasure Antiques	76241	Mid-Med Bank cloth money bag, c.1970s-90s	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2676
Birgu Armoury	76277	Hessain sack branded 'Malta Cross Potatoes'	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2678

Antoine Cachia	76223-26	Four large print photographs of the ex-Enemalta gas bottling plant in Qajjenza, Birzebbuga c.1960s	Ethnography	ETHN/PH/772-75
Kenneth Cassar	76242-43	Hollow plastic candle and a sliding tile number puzzle game	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/79-80
Pitkali Market	76276	Light green plastic crate with the words 'PITKALI MARKET', 2017	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/84
Lucienne Cumbo & Hugo Agius Muscat	76215-22	Eight wooden pelmets for curtains	Ethnography	ETHN/W/431-438
Geraldine Rizzo	76214	Five-piece wicker/cane sofa set in blue-grey upholstery with pink and blue piping woven into the wicker	Ethnography	ETHN/WK/18(i-v)
Lawrence Caruana	76284	1960s wooden embroidery frame with four 1980s unfinished samples of gold embroidery on red velvet	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2682
Kimberly Cachia	76285-90	Set of anthropomorphic soft/plush toys distributed with Safari juices, c.2000s	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2683-88
Kimberly Cachia	76291 i-xxxii, 76292 i-xxxii, 76293 i-xxxii, 76294 i-xxxii	Set of trumps playing cards distributed with Safari brand juices, c.1990s	Ethnography	ETHN/PAP/1290 (i-xxxii), 1291 (i-xxxii), 1292 (i-xxxii), 1293 (i-xxxii)
Ron Van Maarschalkerweerd Borg abo Charles and Ron	76279-80	Full, floor-length skirt embellished with beaded applique Maltese doorknockers & blouse with Maltese lace, Maltese hand-tooled leather belt	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2680 (i-ii), ETHN/L/31

Ċettina Fardell	76278	Baby shawl used for christening	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2679
Lina Vella	76300	Early 20th-century black silk right-hand <i>għonnella</i>	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2669
Doreen Bugeja	76299	White cotton handmade blanket, a mix of knitting and crochet	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2691
Dr Albert Friggieri & Mrs Catherine Bertucat Friggieri	76295-98	Baby collar and bib, cabinet photograph, and an embroidered fire screen	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2689-2690, ETHN/PH/778, ETHN/W/462
Jessie Bugeja	76305-08	Oven mitt, and three business cards of hand weaving factory and shop in Rabat	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2692, ETHN/PAP/1294-96
Kenneth Cassar	76440-41	Two flyers showing rivalry between the Three Cities during the September Regatta	Ethnography	ETHN/PAP/1335-6
Kenneth Cassar	76444	1950s green glass SFC Ltd beer bottle	Ethnography	ETHN/G/157
Angelo Briffa	76394-98, 76399-401, 76402-20, 76421-34	Paraffin lamps and bottles, toys and crates, ephemera, and photographs	Ethnography	ETHN/G/150-154, ETHN/W/465-67, ETHN/PAP/1316-1334, ETHNPH/779-792
Angelo Briffa	76361-2, 76363-4, 76365, 76366-83, 76393, 76384-90, 76391-92	Fish serving fork and carving fork, wooden rates, child school briefcase, ephemera, glass bottles and ceramic smoking set and mug	Ethnography	ETHN//M/1044-45, ETHN/W/463-64, ETHN/PAP/1297-1315, ETHN/PL/86, ETHN/G/143-49, ETHN/CER/132-33
Ivan Cocker	76442 i-iv, 76443 i-v	Beer flute glasses	Ethnography	ETHN/G/155 i-iv, ETHN/G/156 i-v
Simon Ellul Sullivan obo Dr Albert Ganado		Collection of 11 prints and drawings	Ethnography /MUZA/ MMM/GZM	FAS/PR/1160- FAS/PR/1170
Geraldine Rizzo	76310-23, 76330-51, 76360	Ceramic bowls, plate, metal cutlery and cooking wear	Ethnography	ETHN/CER/129-31, ETHN/M/1010-43

Alberta Camilleri	76617-25	1948 First Holy Communion boy's arm bow, two white First Holy Communion handkerchiefs, a plain white girl's sleeveless, round neck vest, 1945 cream-coloured long sleeve, girl's Holy Communion dress and bundle, 1970 white wedding dress, 19th century light brown fabric and a late 19th-century blue curled embroidery motif	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2703-2711
Lawrence Callus	76484-86	Malta dockyard papers and two medals belonging to Lawrence Callus	Ethnography	ETHN/PAP/1346, ETHN/M/1051-1052
Donna Bonello	76487	A collection of items produced mainly by the Cleaning and Maintenance Division, to market their 'Keep it Clean Together' / Ta' Xummiemu	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/95 i-xi
Church of the Holy Trinity	76439	19th-century wooden confessional booth	Ethnography	ETHN/W/468
Joseph Farrugia	76488-76573	Various Malta Carnival items such as certificates, awards and trophies, plaster moulds, sketches and photo negatives	Ethnography	Various
Darly Delicata	76445-71	Hal Caprat wine crates, wine bottles plastic capsules, glass bottles, and bottle labels	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/87-74, ETHN/GL/158-71, ETHN/PAP/1337-45

Arch. Giorgia Favata	76476-83	Cruet set, Lea and Perins sauce bottle, pestle and mortar, clothing iron, bread loaf tins, fretwork machines, wooden carrier, and framed print found at Romeo Romano Gardens	Ethnography	ETHN/G/172-173, ETHN/M/1046-1050, ETHN/FR/46
Connie Zarb Chircop	76079	Black face mask with the Malta Libraries logo	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2638
Car boot seller (Anonymous)	76622	Two-layer red facemask with Padel Malta logo	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2708
Ryan Vella	76627	Black face mask with the brand logo of Price Waterhouse Cooper	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2713
Catherine Caruana	76628	Facemask with white cotton crochet Maltese cross motif	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2714
Xavier Busuttil	76630	Black damask Chasuble	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2716
Vanessa Causon	76631	1936 cream-coloured wedding dress	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2717
Antonia Borg	76633-36	Two christening dresses and two plastic baby hangers	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2719-2720, ETHN/PL/96-97
Michelle Bonello	76637 i-ii	Cotton nightdress with case	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2721
Mark Anthony Callus	76657 i-ii, 76658	Set of mid / late 19th-century dressing table with oval mirror and saloon table with wooden top and a chest of drawers with marble top	Ethnography	ETHN/W/473, ETHN/W/474
Josette Ellul	76660-66	Collection of ephemera made up of voting permissions, passports, driving licence, and permission slips and aviator glasses	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/101-02, ETHN/PAP/1410-13, ETHN/M/1073
Anonymous Carboot seller	76629	Orange microfibre multifunctional wear with six logos of the <i>Għaqda Pellegrinagg Muturi u Roti Haz-Zabbar</i>	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2715

Bejamin and Mark Borg	76603-79916	Various fabric, ceramic, paper and photographic material printed by FranzArt	Ethnography	ETHN/F/2693-1702; ETHN/CER/139; ETHN/PAP/1408; ETHN/PH/794-95
Jade Zammit	89692	Villa Guardamangia Garden 2	Villa G'mangia	VGM 60
Jade Zammit	89694	Villa Frere	Villa Frere	
Eugenio Bartolo	207301-3	Three traditional blankets made of handwoven sheep's wool (praken)	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETHN/F/648-50
Prof. Anne Sutton OBE	215957-983	Collection of tablet woven fabrics and finished works by British designer Pat Holtom	Gozo Museum	G/ETHN/F/652-678
Alfred Vella	216010-16	Seven traditional blankets	Gozo Ethnography	G/ETHN/F/680-686
A.J.M. (Ton) Donders	216005	Painting of a Gozitan man in a pub in Qbajjar, Marsalforn by Scottish artist Derek Gill Seymour (1928-2003)	Gozo Museum	G/PPD/2024/02
Mr & Mrs Zammit	207822	Spatheion amphora supported in a tailor-made metal stand	UCHU	TBA
Mr & Mrs Zammit	207823	Lead anchor stock	UCHU	TBA
Mr & Mrs Zammit	207824	Collar of the lead anchor	UCHU	TBA
Mr & Mrs Zammit	207825	Cannon	UCHU	TBA
Anonymous donor	246456-89	Various underwater artefacts including cannon, anchor stock, anchor collar and a spatheion	UCHU	TBA
Nicholas Edmunds	233467	Tankard of Lieutenant Colonel T.F. Briggs who served with 15th Field Ambulance, on his arrival in Malta, 27-7-1941	National War Museum	NWM 4159

Louis & Marlene Craus	233468	Medals of Dockyard worker Carmelo Gauci: 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, 1939-45 Medal	National War Museum	NWM 4160
Louis & Marlene Craus	233469	Medals of Police Constable Carmel Craus 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 Medal	National War Museum	NWM 4161
Rita Zammit	233472	Pair of white shoes of Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4164
Rita Zammit	233473	British Army beret dated 1944 of Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4165
Rita Zammit	233474	Field Service Cap (FSC) dated 1941 pertaining to Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4166
Rita Zammit	233475	Small army uniform item of Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4167
Rita Zammit	233476	Army uniform item of Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4168
Rita Zammit	233477	Pair of leather items of Gużeppe Sammut who served in one of the Maltese regiments	National War Museum	NWM 4169
Lindsay Mann	233478	US M1910 Second Pattern Haversack made by Canvas Products Co. 1917 carried by Curtiss Messner	National War Museum	NWM 4170

David Rowlands	233479	George Beurling Victory Salute over the tanker SS. <i>Ohio</i> on 15 August 1942 while entering Grand Harbour, painted by donor	National War Museum	NWM 4171
Mario Vella	233480	Communication Receiver Type P.C.R. made by Philips Lambs Ltd, England, ZA26707, Serial No. 05793	National War Museum	NWM 4172
Robert von Brockdorff	233481	Three medals: Queen's South Africa Medal, King's South Africa Medal and Africa General Service Medal with three same miniature medals of Lieutenant Eugene von Brockdorff in the King's Own (Royal Lancaster Regiment) during one the Boer Wars	National War Museum	NWM 4173
The Von Brockdorff Family	233482	Honorary officers' sword of the KOMR of Colonel Edward von Brockdorff	National War Museum	NWM 4174
The Von Brockdorff Family	233483	Leather belt with buckle pertaining to Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR)	National War Museum	NWM 4175
The Von Brockdorff Family	233484	Tassels of Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR)	National War Museum	NWM 4176
The Von Brockdorff Family	233485	Belt for the honouring sword of Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR)	National War Museum	NWM 4177
The Von Brockdorff Family	233486	Pair of officers' uniform jacket epaulettes of Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR)	National War Museum	NWM 4178
The Von Brockdorff Family	233487	12 revolver bullets	National War Museum	NWM 4179

The Von Brockdorff Family	233488	27 uniform buttons	National War Museum	NWM 4180
The Von Brockdorff Family	233489	Six medals: Malta George Cross Fiftieth Anniversary, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence Medal, War Medal 1939-45 and the Emergency Reserve Decoration of Colonel Edward von Brockdorff (KOMR)	National War Museum	NWM 4181
Robert von Brockdorff	233490	Three medals: 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal & Victory Medal of Hugh (Ugo) von Brockdorff	National War Museum	NMW 4182
Dawn Stevenson	233491	Nine medals: 1914-15 Star, 1914-18 War Medal, Victory Medal, 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, 1939-45 Medal, King George V Silver Jubilee Medal, King George VI Coronation Medal a Companion of the Order of the British Empire + same miniature medals of Rear Admiral Kenneth Harry Litton Mackenzie	National War Museum	NMW 4183
Dawn Stevenson	233492	Small plaque of Cheshire Regiment with brief info	National War Museum	NMW 4184
Antoine Attard	233493	Framed photo of officer's cook Anthony Mercieca and two medals: 1939-45 Star, who served on the destroyer HMS <i>Hunter</i> and sunk during the First Battle of Narvik, 10-4-1940	National War Museum	NWM 4185

i. **Chance finds and transfers**

Found at/ transferred from	Object number	Object details	Collection	Ref Number
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15th-century Renaissance wreck - Sannat Cliffs	246460-72, 246486-89	Albarelli and other ceramic objects and metal concretions	Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit	TBA
Schnellboot S-31, German motor torpedo boat (MTB) wreck	246473-79	Schnellboot S-31 – objects: navigational light, port hole, ceiling light, lamp grid, part of frame and ceramic sherds	Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit	TBA
Spitfire wreck	246480-85	Misc. metal, up/down lever, metal tag, lens and lever	Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit	TBA
Malta Maritime Museum	89775	Malta Drydocks helmet	Malta Maritime Museum	MMM 005320
National Museum of Archaeology	76640-55	Collection of various artefacts: travel ephemera, spectacles, political flag, kitchen tools and ceramic plates	Ethnography	ETHN/PL/89-100; ETHN/PAP/1409; ETHN/M/1070-72; ETHN/CER/140-48
Inquisitor's Palace	207286	Prayer booklet of Nativity chapel	Fort St Angelo	FSA 472
Inquisitor's Palace	76574-92	Items related to milk transportation and dissemination in Malta	Ethnography	ETHN/G/175-80; ETHN/M/1057-69
Inquisitor's Palace	76244-49	Collection of plastic brown see-through combs in plastic wrapping, an electric two bar heater and two cabinet photos of well-dressed men	Ethnography	ETHN/M/1009, ETHN/PL/81-83, ETHN/PH/776-77
National Museum of Archaeology	76253-75	23 wooden shipping and storage crates	Ethnography	ETHN/W/439-61
Found at Fort St Elmo	207155	Envelope with French 1981 stamp featuring Fort St Elmo, with Fort St Elmo and two UNESCO Paris postmarks	Fort St Elmo	FSE/413

Found at Fort St Elmo	207156	Newspaper article from <i>I-Orizzont</i> 'Sant lermu lura ghand il-poplu fi ftit zmien' of 5 March 2015	Fort St Elmo	FSE/116
Found at Fort St Elmo	207157	Four scanned images of Fort St Elmo- aerial shots	Fort St Elmo	FSE/118
Found at Fort St Elmo	207158	Table leg from Chaplain's House, Fort St Elmo	Fort St Elmo	FSE/119
Found at Fort St Elmo	207159	Logbook of the Police Academy in Fort St Elmo 1989-95	Fort St Elmo	FSE/120
Found at Fort St Elmo	207160	Tabernacle door, lock and key of St Anne chapel, Fort St Elmo	Fort St Elmo	FSE/121
Found at Fort St Elmo	207161	Candle holder presumably from one of the chapels at Fort St Elmo	Fort St Elmo	FSE/122
Found at Fort St Elmo	207162	Nails that used to hold 1871 marble stone erected for Abercrombie	Fort St Elmo	FSE/415
Found at Fort St Elmo	207163	Stone piece found near CB-M12 Stores (NWM garages)	Fort St Elmo	FSE/417
Found at Fort St Elmo	207164	Pieces of white marble from Abercrombie marble stone	Fort St Elmo	FSE/416
Found at Fort St Elmo	207165	Broken piece of a candle holder stand, St Anne Chapel	Fort St Elmo	FSE/414
Found at Fort St Elmo	208026	Unveiling of the Royal Malta artillery memorial, 1950	Fort St Elmo	FSE 418



Customised storage boxes for costumes collection

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 Agency and its subsidiaries (together referred as "the Group") for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Principal activities

Heritage Malta 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

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that Heritage Malta presents its annual report for 2024 - another remarkable year filled with significant achievements, ambitious projects, and strengthened commitments to preserving and celebrating our nation's rich cultural heritage.

The Agency's mission of accessibility continued to bear the desired fruit, with the Agency's museums and sites attracting over 1.6 million paying visitors during the year under review - figures that surpass the previous year's by more than €281,000. Equated with 2023, the entire market segments of paying admissions soared by an average of 24%. A stunning increase of 48% was noted in the number of senior admissions, the adult segment expanded by 14%, while the student and the child categories registered an increase of 10% and 23% respectively.

These numbers were the culmination of a collective effort towards greater community engagement - an effort aided by a packed events calendar, amongst other initiatives. Comprising more than 100 activities for all age groups, the Agency's calendar offered an array of events ranging from cooking sessions and special openings of normally closed sites, to boat tours, lectures, guided walks, equinox and solstice experiences, and exclusive activities for members, to name but a few.

Additionally, the Agency extended the opening hours of five prominent Heritage Malta sites in summer, allowing visitors to make the most of longer daylight hours and giving them ample time to explore these sites at a relaxed pace.

The year started off spectacularly, as January saw the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta reopen its doors following a major restoration project which was the most ambitious one of its kind undertaken by the Agency to date. The project entailed the restoration of the Piano Nobile corridors, the Armoury's relocation back to its original place, the creation of a visitor centre in the area known as Palazzo del Monte and the Orangerie, and the restoration of the courtyards and the state halls, amongst others. The public's response has been outstanding, as attested by visitor statistics for the Palace since its resumption of operations.

Another reopening happened in February, albeit partially, when the exhibition *An Island at the Crossroads* was launched at the Malta Maritime Museum in Birgu, marking the completion of the initial phase of the restoration project currently underway at the museum. Various initiatives linked to the exhibition were taken throughout the year. These included new educational material for young visitors, aimed at deepening their understanding of our oceans' critical role in preserving cultural heritage, as well as a series of very well-attended public talks by ex-Malta Drydocks workers.

2024 will also remain memorable for the launch of two other exhibitions by Heritage Malta. This was the year that saw the Cippi of Malta reunited in the country where they were separated in 1782, when one of them was gifted to France. The long-awaited reunion was made possible thanks to the exhibition *The Cippi of Malta – Their Story and Voyage* at the National Museum of Archaeology, illuminating ongoing mysteries about the Cippi's origins as scholars continue to explore when and how they first arrived in Malta.

The other exhibition, *Betrayal and Vengeance: The Slaves' Conspiracy of 1749* in 19 historical drawings, marked the 275th anniversary of the historic failed revolt and was inaugurated at the Inquisitor's Palace and National Museum of Ethnography. The exhibition centred around a set of numbered paintings, recently restored by Heritage Malta, which illustrate the severe crackdown that ensued after the failure of the famous plot.

In 2024, Heritage Malta lived up to its promise to start transforming Villa Portelli in Kalkara into a multipurpose space accessible for public enjoyment. The masterplan for the rehabilitation of the villa and its gardens was completed, and parts of the gardens were opened to the public in December. Villa Portelli is now open for free every Sunday and hosts other activities regularly in order to sustain community engagement.

Internally, Heritage Malta has continued with its restructuring process, focusing on the consolidation of several departments and the creation of new ones. The latter include the Customer Relations Department, through which the agency intends to build and develop long-term customer loyalty and client retention. A restructuring process within the Projects Unit and the Research, Collections and Knowledge Management Unit has also been implemented, in line with the Agency's commitment to sustain operational excellence and adapt to the evolving business environment in which it works.

Throughout the year under review, Heritage Malta remained committed to leveraging the latest technologies to enhance both its internal operations and the management of the national cultural heritage assets under its care. To this effect, the agency successfully launched a state-of-the-art Collections Management System (CMS), which serves as the primary platform for cataloguing digitised items within the national collection. Through this system, the Agency also facilitates public access to these artefacts via digital platforms, significantly expanding their reach.

In parallel, the Agency has also undertaken the implementation of an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, designed to streamline operations across key areas such as human resources, finance, procurement, and project management. This integrated approach is expected to yield significant cost efficiencies and operational improvements.

None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the Agency's team, the unwavering support of partners and stakeholders, and the enthusiasm of the community the Agency serves. Their contributions have been instrumental in making this year a resounding success.

Looking ahead, the future is bright. With new initiatives on the horizon, continued investment in technology and innovation, and an ever-growing network of collaborators, Heritage Malta is poised to expand its impact even further. The Agency's commitment to cultural preservation remains steadfast, and we are excited for the opportunities that lie ahead, in 2025 and beyond. As you explore this report, we invite you to reflect on the milestones we have achieved together and to share our optimism for the future.

Results

The Agency finances its operations through revenues, mainly from admission fees to museums and sites, and also from Government subventions. During the reporting period, the Agency generated income from operations amounting to €13,498,334 (2023: €10,361,614). The opening of the Grand Master's Palace contributed to the increase in income generated from operations amounting to €2,059,121. Additionally, it recorded income from subventions amounting to €15,336,624 (2023: €9,679,785) in relation to its recurrent expenditure. The financial figures of the subvention from the consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure include a subvention provided of €2,650,000 for the first edition of the Malta Biennale.

Furthermore, the Agency received capital funding amounting €9,217,657 (2023: €8,893,889) in terms of Capital Vote XIV. During the reporting period ending on 31 December 2024, Heritage Malta's subsidiary - Heritage Malta Services Limited and sub-subsidiaries; Taste History Limited, and DigiArc Limited - collectively generated a profit before taxation amounting to €450,424, with a net profit of €290,873 after taxation.

All of these earnings have been transferred to the Agency's consolidated fund, supporting its wider operational and strategic objectives. This contribution reflects the ongoing success of the subsidiaries, the strategic alignment of their initiatives with those of Heritage Malta, and their effective management and operational efficiency throughout the year.

Following the opening of the Grand Master's Palace in January 2024, the cost of the construction in progress has been reclassified as Infrastructural Improvement. As a result, the depreciation charge significantly increased in 2024. The deficit for the year is calculated before the release of depreciation from Government Capital funded Votes amounting to €2,144,883 for 2024. This information is not shown on the face of the income statement in the Financial Statements but can be found in the Statement of Changes in Equity.

The Agency and the Group registered a deficit amounting to €2,187,573 (2023: €1,747,103) and €1,896,700 (2023: €1,612,878) 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:

Mr. Mario Cutajar - Chairman

Mr. Anthony Scicluna - Deputy Chairman

Ms. Antoinette Caruana

Mr. Jorge Grech

Mr. Charles Hili

Dr. Demi Agius

Prof. JoAnn Cassar

Ms. Leanne Abela Grech

Mr. Etienne Schembri

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.

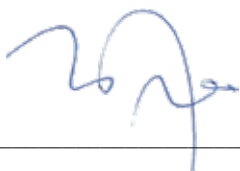
Secretary

The following are the details of the 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 29 April 2025.



Mr. Mario Cutajar
Chairman



Mr. Anthony Scicluna
Deputy Chairman

Registered address:

Heritage Malta Head Office,
35, Dawret Fra Giovanni Bichi,
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 2024 are included in the Annual Report 2024, 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

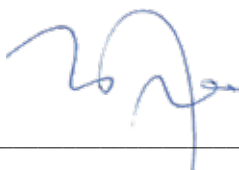
	Consolidated		Agency	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	€	€	€	€
Income				
Subvention from consolidated fund for recurrent expenditure	15,336,624	9,679,785	15,336,624	9,679,785
Income from operations	14,728,583	11,393,744	13,498,334	10,361,614
Total income	30,065,207	21,073,529	28,834,958	20,041,399
Expenditure				
Staff costs	(12,456,501)	(11,017,113)	(12,213,646)	(10,795,101)
Other recurrent operational expenditure	(14,000,943)	(8,592,821)	(13,722,938)	(8,338,269)
Recurrent administrative expenditure	(1,594,819)	(1,134,351)	(1,392,358)	(932,137)
Total expenditure	(28,052,263)	(20,744,285)	(27,328,942)	(20,065,507)
EBITDA	2,012,944	329,244	1,506,016	(24,108)
Finance costs	(167,070)	(120,291)	(167,070)	(120,291)
Depreciation	(3,572,751)	(1,639,519)	(3,516,247)	(1,592,432)
Amortisation	(10,272)	(10,272)	(10,272)	(10,272)
Deficit before taxation	(1,737,149)	(1,440,838)	(2,187,573)	(1,747,103)
Taxation	(159,551)	(110,824)	-	-
Deficit for the year	(1,896,700)	(1,551,662)	(2,187,573)	(1,747,103)

There were no transactions to be reported as 'Other Comprehensive Income' during the year.

Statement of Financial Position

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	€	€	€	€
ASSETS				
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	57,088,702	51,847,366	56,935,081	51,658,096
Intangible assets	10,273	20,545	10,273	20,545
Investment in subsidiaries	-	-	4,959	4,959
Total non-current assets	57,098,975	51,867,911	56,950,313	51,683,600
Current assets				
Inventories	677,537	714,597	677,537	714,597
Trade and other receivables	1,398,946	1,206,664	914,949	1,048,163
Cash and cash equivalents	15,156,525	6,449,064	14,120,016	5,651,061
Total current assets	17,233,008	8,370,325	15,712,502	7,413,821
TOTAL ASSETS	74,331,983	60,238,236	72,662,815	59,097,421
RESERVES AND LIABILITIES				
Reserves				
Capital vote	43,489,089	36,416,315	43,489,089	36,416,315
Recurrent vote and operating activities	1,391,442	1,143,259	361,678	404,368
Total reserves	44,880,531	37,559,574	43,850,767	36,820,683
Liabilities				
Non-current liabilities				
Deferred income	11,530,419	12,203,454	11,530,419	12,203,454
Lease liability	293,142	519,585	293,142	519,585
Specific endowment funds	1,466,741	1,015,224	1,466,741	1,015,224

Total non-current liabilities	13,290,302	13,738,263	13,290,302	13,738,263
Current liabilities				
Lease liability	245,833	221,531	245,833	221,531
Specific endowment funds	189,659	1,007,200	189,659	1,007,200
Provisions	455,796	455,796	455,796	455,796
Current tax payable	75,035	78,646	-	-
Trade and other payables	15,194,827	7,177,226	14,630,458	6,853,948
Total current liabilities	16,161,150	8,940,399	15,521,746	8,538,475
Total liabilities	29,451,452	22,678,662	28,812,048	22,276,738
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES	74,331,983	60,238,236	72,662,815	59,097,421



Mr. Mario Cutajar
Chairman



Mr. Anthony Scicluna
Deputy Chairman

Statement of Changes in Equity

Agency

	Capital vote	Recurrent vote and operating activities	Accumulated fund
	€	€	€
Balance as at 01 January 2023	28,634,610	1,103,986	29,738,596
Deficit for the year	-	(1,747,103)	(1,747,103)
Capital subvention for the year	8,893,889	-	8,893,889
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote	(1,047,485)	1,047,485	-
Reclassification between capital votes and deferred income	(64,699)	-	(64,699)
Balance as at 31 December 2023	36,416,315	404,368	36,820,683
Balance as at 01 January 2024	36,416,315	404,368	36,820,683
Deficit for the year	-	(2,187,573)	(2,187,573)
Capital subvention for the year	9,217,657	-	9,217,657
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote	(2,144,883)	2,144,883	-
Balance as at 31 December 2024	43,489,089	361,678	43,850,767

Consolidated

	Capital vote	Recurrent vote and operating activities	Accumulated fund
	€	€	€
Balance as at 01 January 2023	28,634,610	1,647,738	30,282,348
Deficit for the year	-	(1,551,662)	(1,551,662)
Capital subvention for the year	8,893,889	-	8,893,889
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote	(1,047,485)	1,047,485	-
Reclassification between capital votes and deferred income	(64,699)	-	(64,699)
Balance as at 31 December 2023	36,416,315	1,143,259	37,559,574
Balance as at 01 January 2024	36,416,315	1,143,259	37,559,574
Deficit for the year	-	(1,896,700)	(1,896,700)
Capital subvention for the year	9,217,657	-	9,217,657
Transfer of depreciation to capital vote	(2,144,883)	2,144,883	-
Balance as at 31 December 2024	43,489,089	1,391,442	44,880,531

Statement of Cash Flows

	Consolidated		Agency	
	2024	2023	2024	2023
	€	€	€	€
Cash flows from operating activities:				
Deficit for the year before taxation	(1,737,149)	(1,440,838)	(2,187,573)	(1,747,103)
Adjustments for:				
Depreciation	3,572,751	1,639,519	3,516,247	1,592,432
Depreciation release to profit and loss	(916,033)	-	(916,033)	-
Amortisation	10,272	10,272	10,272	10,272
Interest expense	42,122	50,145	42,122	50,145
Provisions	-	(131,196)	-	(131,196)
Surplus/(deficit) from operations	971,963	127,902	465,035	(225,450)
Change in inventories	37,060	(106,213)	37,060	(106,213)
Change in trade and other receivables	(192,282)	(138,635)	133,214	(184,294)
Change in trade and other payables	8,017,601	3,048,798	7,776,510	3,024,896
Income tax paid	(163,162)	(62,135)	-	-
Net cash flows from operating activities	8,671,180	2,869,717	8,411,819	2,508,939
Cash flows from investing activities:				

Additions to property, plant and equipment	(8,826,201)	(13,694,805)	(8,793,232)	(13,532,664)
Disposals of property, plant and equipment	12,114	-	-	-
Net cash flows used in investing activities	(8,814,087)	(13,694,805)	(8,793,232)	(13,532,664)
Cash flows from financing activities:				
Capital subvention from government	9,217,657	8,893,889	9,217,657	8,893,889
Specific endowment funds	(317,948)	1,192,445	(317,948)	1,192,445
Lease liability repayments	(244,263)	(239,435)	(244,263)	(239,435)
ERDF/EEA and Norway grants	194,922	2,930,627	194,922	2,930,627
Net cash flows from financing activities	8,850,368	12,777,526	8,850,368	12,777,526
Net cash from cash and cash equivalents during the year	8,707,461	1,952,438	8,468,955	1,753,801
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	6,449,064	4,496,626	5,651,061	3,897,260
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	15,156,525	6,449,064	14,120,016	5,651,061

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