PARLAMENT TA' MALTA

IT-TNAX-IL LEĠIŻLATURA

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Skrivan tal-Kamra

HERITAGE MALTA (HM) ANNUAL REPORT 2015

It was an exceptional year by any standards for HM. Besides the inauguration of four major EU co-funded infrastructural projects and an international exhibition to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege, HM also managed to register a record number of visitors and generation of revenue for the third year in a row, together with a record number of cultural activities and publications.

CAPITAL WORKS

During the year under review works at the **Malta Maritime Museum** continued with the restoration of the main façade and apertures as well as the structural consolidation of the turrets. Restoration works also resumed in the loggia around the lower courtyard of the **National Museum of Natural History** (Vilhena Palace) in Mdina and works commenced on the restoration of the vaults in the upper courtyard of the same palace. The intensive restoration programme at the **Inquisitor's Palace** continued, with resources focused on the spaces earmarked for the relocation of the costume reserve collection and exhibition halls.

The restoration works on **Bighi**'s historic smoking shed also resumed, and major refurbishment works were carried out in the terraces and open spaces in view of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II visit to Bighi on 28 November. The major works on the reconstruction of the **Ta' Kola Windmill** mechanism were also completed, now pending only the external blades planned for 2016. The preliminary technical studies and surveys resumed in anticipation of infrastructural improvements at the **Xaghra Stone Circle**.

In 2015 Heritage Malta concluded the following EU-funded projects:

The **ERDF 032 Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project** (c. €10m) involved works at the Ggantija Heritage Park, the Tarxien Temples and the St Paul's Catacombs complex. The project included technical studies on all three sites, the building of a visitor centre and other visitor infrastructure and extensive landscaping at Ggantija Temples and St Paul's Catacombs, and the construction of a walkway and a protective shelter at Tarxien Temples. All major works were concluded in the three sites. While Ggantija was inaugurated in 2013, St Paul's Catacombs was officially inaugurated on 2 October and the protective shelter over Tarxien Temples was inaugurated on 21 December. Furthermore, HM also refurbished the visitor centre at the Tarxien Temples to complement the ERDF funded works. The works were recorded in two project books, one for each site and a 45-minute documentary about this extensive project.

The **ERDF 245 Fort St Angelo Heritage Experience** (c. €13m) included the restoration of the government-owned sections of the fort and their rehabilitation into a cultural attraction

focusing on the importance of the fort in Malta's history. The major restoration and finishes works were officially inaugurated on 30 October, in time for the hosting of the Heads of Government retreat/meeting during the CHOGM held in November. The ERDF funded works were also complemented by national funds which included also the reconstruction of the entrance vault into the Fort.

The **ERDF 244 Fort St Elmo Heritage Experience** (c. €15m), a project spearheaded by the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation in collaboration with HM, was also completed in 2015. The works included the restoration of the enceinte and Upper Fort St Elmo as a cultural attraction, including the hosting of the National War Museum and its transformation into a Military History Museum. The project was inaugurated on the 8 May 2015. The Fort was also used to host the media centre during the EU-Africa summit held in November as well as other events in relation to the CHOGM meeting also held later in the same month. A monument entitled **Kavallieri** was also cast and shall be installed in front of the *Porta del Soccorso* in 2016.

The **EAFRD M323/12** (REBACA – Rehabilitation of the Roman Baths and Christian Catacombs, c. €2m) focused on the conservation of the Ghajn Tuffieha Roman Baths and the necessary infrastructural works required to render the Ta' Bistra Catacombs (Mosta) accessible to the general public. The work included technical studies, archaeological investigation campaigns and conservation works on both sites, as well as major infrastructural works at the Ta' Bistra site, mainly involving the construction of a walkway and protective shelter over the Catacombs complex/ancient quarry.

On the other hand, the preparatory works with respect to the **EEA (Norwegian Funds) Financial Mechanism 2009-14** funded **New Environmental Management System project for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** (c. €900,000) proceeded as planned. The baseline studies and monitoring works are underway. The design was completed and the main works tenders issued (elapsing January 2016).

National Monuments

In collaboration with the Office of the Prime Minster, following the inauguration of the monuments in honour of former Presidents Prof Guido de Marco and Dr Censu Tabone, and the selection of the **artistic statement to the Maltese Republic** after a two-stage design contest, the focus in 2015 was the preparatory work for the tender for artistic statement to the Maltese Republic in collaboration with GHRC. Furthermore, **a monument for the Maltese People**, to be inaugurated in 2017, was also commissioned.

In 2015 Heritage Malta also submitted the following applications for EU-funded projects for the period 2014-2020:

Following the engagement of a multi-disciplinary team for **MUZA**, the project involving the relocation of the National Museum of Fine Arts from South Street to the Auberge d'Italie, the focus during 2015 was the commencement of the restoration works on the main façade and the detail design of the scheme for the submission of the MEPA application and the eventual works tender to be issued in the first quarter of 2016. The formal application for ERDF funding was lodged in September 2015. Besides, HM has also participated actively in the planning and discussions for the Valletta 2018 project, of which MUZA is a key aspect.

Furthermore, HM submitted a further two applications for ERDF funding, for the period 2014-2020, one concerning the **Grandmaster's Palace in Valletta**, and another for the setting up a regional **Gozo Museum**. The latter project is being coordinated via an intra-ministerial committee set-up between representatives of MGOZ and HM. Apart from the compilation and submission of application for ERDF funding, a Cost Benefit Analysis and the design brief for the international design competition, was prepared to select the multi-disciplinary team to be entrusted with the project, to be launched in the first quarter of 2016.

On the other hand, in close collaboration with the Restoration Directorate (Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government), HM finalized the masterplan for the first phase of the regeneration of the Grandmaster's Palace, mainly focusing on the creation of a visitor centre and the re-location of the Knight's Armoury collection to its original halls (presently the Parliament Chamber), which formed the basis of the application for the ERDF funding. A Cost Benefit Analysis was also concluded in this respect. Furthermore, HM is also supporting the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation with the preparatory works currently being undertaken inside the Palace in view of the hosting of the EU Presidency in the first half of 2017, including the restoration of the marble flooring of the main corridors in the Piano Nobile.

HM ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOWING EU PROJECTS:

REMASI: INTERREG Italia-Malta – to increase knowledge and develop measures of environmental conservation on the protection of biodiversity in nature reserves in Sicily and Malta. All the results from the studies carried out during the REMASI project were published in a unique volume by the Lead Partner as per agreement. The Senior Curator Natural History co-authored two of the papers. Five lectures were held at the University of Palermo, *Sezione Scienze Agrarie* and at the GG Gemelaro Museum of Geology and Palaeontology, Palermo as well as at the Regione Siciliana offices in Palermo.

MEDIDWARFS PROJECT 2012-2017 - The National Museum of Natural History has for the past four years collaborated with the Natural History Museum of London on a research project to study the fossil mammals from Għar Dalam as part of a broader project on endemic Pleistocene mammals of Mediterranean islands. The research has been funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (UK) and the Leverhulme Trust. Work has focussed on elephants and deer, and has revealed the presence of several species of each.

FRAGSUS - During March and April a fieldwork session was undertaken at Ġgantija. This focused primarily on the archaeological section beneath the former WC block to the north east of the temple, and followed preliminary detailed investigations in the same area carried out in the 2014 session. The excavation of a limited trench revealed substantial potential for further investigation. The original trench was extended to reveal undisturbed Ġgantija and possible earlier phase deposits. Further excavation also exposed a potentially man-made rock build-up/ramp with an orientation towards the monument. An analysis of the data and soil samples collected from this section should provide potential interpretations to this discovery and determine possible evidence for cultural levels preceding the Ġgantija phase.

EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Besides the closing off of **Malta: the great story of a small island-nation** and the **Roman Inquisition in Malta**, HM also organised the following:

During the period under review HM staged a varied programme to commemorate the **450th anniversary of the Great Siege of 1565**. These included 'Dawn of the Great Siege' (Life at Sea 2015), a family event packed with fun activities held at the Malta Maritime Museum on 17 May; '1565: First and Last Hope', an interactive drama held at Fort St Elmo from 26 to 28 June; 'A Bird's Eye View of the Great Siege', a hands-on and interactive educational programme for Year 6 students held at the Grand Master's Palace and Fort St Angelo during the month of October; and 'Besieged Malta 1565', an international conference held at Fort St Angelo between 29 and 31 October accompanied with the printing of two volumes of proceedings. The climax of this programme of commemoration events was reached with the staging of the international exhibition **1565: The Great Siege of Malta** at the Grand Master's Palace between 4 September and 6 December. This was held in collaboration with Malta Libraries and featured artefacts from the art collections of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (Rome), Firepower (Woolwich), Kremlin Museum (Moscow), Kunsthistorisches Museum (Vienna), Museum of the Order of St John (London), Palazzo Venezia (Rome) and Royal Armouries (Leeds), and was accompanied by the production of a lavish exhibition catalogue and a workbook for Year 6 students. The latter was partially sponsored by the Directorate for Quality and Standards in Education (Ministry of Education and Employment).

Apart from the above, during the year under review HM organised, participated in or hosted some 230 cultural events, including lectures, heritage trails, seminars, temporary exhibitions, re-enactments, and others (**Appendix**). Worthy of mention are 'Itinerarivm Romanvm Serbiae, Road of Roman Emperors in Serbia Viminacivm' at the National Museum of Archaeology, and HM's active participation in the organisation of the Valletta Summit on Migration, CHOGM Malta and the state visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the month of November. All the museums and sites managed by HM were open free of charge to the public during two open days. Likewise, admission was reduced to a nominal fee on several occasions, in particular

during the respective cultural events organised by Local Councils. All activities were very actively publicised on all local printed and electronic media.

COLLECTIONS, CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND OTHER

Hundreds of natural specimens and cultural heritage items were acquired for the National Collection during this year, such as the donation of two works of art by Giuseppe Calì and Antonio Sciortino presented by Fr Marius Zerafa O.P., former director of the Museums Department. The cataloguing of artefacts into MUSES, the database developed by the Agency, continued.

The Conservation Departments worked on the conservation and restoration of hundreds of artefacts from the National Collection, including metal, glass and stone objects, wood, textiles, paintings, books and paper. Worthy of mention are paintings for the National War Museum at Fort St Elmo, MUZA, the refurbished Museum of Folklore, and ongoing work on historic photographic glass plates at the Fototeka of the National Museum of Archaeology.

We were also very active on the education front through the production of specific education programmes and work sheets, and by the organisation of a series of activities including hands-on sessions, drama representations and treasure hunts for school children, and others attending *Skolasajf*. We also cooperated with the Ministry of Education in other initiatives such as the organisation of in-service courses for teachers, and career orientation visits in collaboration with MCAST and the Career Guidance Unit. A total of 29,878 students and accompanying adults visited HM museums and sites as part of their curricular needs or during extra-curricular activities as per Table 1 below.

HM has also launched its online shop on http://www.heritagemalta.org/shop to increase accessibility to its publications and merchandise. We have capitalized on sponsorships, which have been used for capital works and other projects. In fact HM intends to invest in its internal structure to tap on potential sponsors next year. HM has also launched an internal exercise to streamline its processes. With 22 sites opening daily, HM had to invest in ICT systems to meet the demands of the ever changing operational environment especially regarding procurement and the maximisation of resources.

TABLE 1: EDUCATION VISITS STATISTICS

Museum /Site (By Region)	Number of Participants
National Museum of Archaeology	4077
National Museum of Fine Arts	503
National War Museum	609
Palace Armoury & State Rooms	2899
Bighi	138
Inquisitor's Palace	2555
Malta Maritime Museum	1343
Fort St Angelo	1816
Tarxien Temples	482
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	0
Għar Dalam	1530
Ħagar Qim Temples	2779
Mnajdra Temples	2750
National Museum of Natural History	890
Domus Romana	1434
St Paul's Catacombs	1501
Ta' Ħagrat Temple	0
Skorba Temple	0
Ta Bistra Catacombs	112
Gozo Museum of Archaeology	428
Folklore Museum	385
Gozo Nature Museum	142
The Old Prison	318
Ġgantija	2321
Ta' Kola Windmill	584
Total	**29,878**

TABLE 2: ADMISSION STATISTICS

Museum/Site (By Region)	Paying Visitors
National Museum of Archaeology	59,296
National Museum of Fine Arts	21,084
National War Museum (Fort St Elmo)*	32,887
Palace Armoury	100,945
Palace State Rooms	150,929
Inquisitor's Palace	32,659
Malta Maritime Museum	21,417
Fort St Angelo	8,165
Tarxien Temples**	28,258
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	28,698
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	38,700
Hagar Qim Temples	148,370
Mnajdra Temples	86,059
National Museum of Natural History	15,293
Domvs Romana	30,231
St Paul's Catacombs	55,902
Ta' Hagrat Temple	1,432
Skorba Temple	599
Gozo Museum of Archaeology***	10,019
Folklore Museum	6,549
Gozo Nature Museum	3,772
The Old Prison	11,890
Ggantija Temples	186,232
Ta' Kola Windmill	16,276
Sub total	**1,096,532**
Free admissions	101,389
GRAND TOTAL	**1,197,921**

* Closed Jan-May, November; ** Closed May-Dec; *** Citadel museums frequently closed

This represents an overall slight increase over 2014, which was a record year, and also an overall record year as regards revenue - €9.98 million (subject to audit adjustments).

APPENDIX I: EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

1. **7 – 10 February:** ***Malta's Premiere Scale Model Exhibition*** – An exhibition of the finest scale model aircraft, ships, military vehicles, figures, motor vehicles and dioramas organised by the IPMS Malta, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

2. **8 May – 5 June:** ***Bantu: Nazca*** – An African and Peruvian art exhibition by various artists from Africa and Peru organised by Missio Malta in aid of projects in the missions, *HM Showcase*.

3. **23 May – 7 June:** ***Cotidie, The Magic of Everyday*** – A photographic exhibition by Chinese photographer Kitty Chou, *National Museum of Natural History*.

4. **30 May – 21 June:** ***Birdscapes and other works*** – An exhibition of paintings by Andrew Micallef, *National Museum of Natural History*.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

5. **18 March 2014 – 1 February 2015:** ***Malta, The Great Story of a Small Island Nation through 100 Objects*** – An exhibition exploring the history of Malta from its geological formation, 35 million years ago, to EU accession through 100 objects, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

6. **19 September 2014 – 3 May 2015:** ***The Roman Inquisition in Malta*** – An exhibition on witchcraft, magical spells, theft and profanation of the sacred and a myriad of other curious episodes from the past, including authentic proceedings from the Cathedral Archives, Palace plans from the Vatican Secret Archives and a number of books originally belonging to the Inquisitor's own personal library, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

7. **13 December 2014 – 31 January 2015:** ***Bl-Oħla Dawl Libbist*** – An exhibition of the projects submitted in response to the public call for proposals for an artistic statement to the Maltese Republic, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

8. **9 – 22 February:** ***Valentine's Day Exhibition*** – An exhibition showing the figurine the 'Embracing Couple' complemented with jewellery dating from the same period, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

9. **1 July – 31 October:** ***Uncommon Sculpture*** – An exhibition presenting works which explain how and in what ways Maltese 20th century sculpture is experimental, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

EXHIBITIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

10. **20 – 26 April:** ***Beyond Malta, The Works of Maltese Artists Living Abroad*** – An exhibition showcasing the works of Maltese artists organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with HM to coincide with the 5th Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad 2015, *HM Showcase*.

11. **25 July – 30 August:** ***Itinerarivm Romanvm Serbiae, Road of Roman Emperors in Serbia Viminacivm*** – An exhibition on four centuries of history of the Roman Empire through the

biographies of 18 emperors born at the Danube frontier, organised in collaboration with the Archaeological Institute of Belgrade (Serbia), *National Museum of Archaeology*.

12. **5 September – 6 December:** ***1565, The Great Siege of Malta*** – An exhibition commemorating the 450th anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta organised in collaboration with the National Library of Malta, *Grandmaster's Palace*.

13. **4 October:** ***Ħidmithom*** – An exhibition of busts from the National Collection organised on the occasion of Notte Bianca, *Auberge de Castille*.

14. **4 October:** ***Celebrating Antonio Sciortino*** – An exhibition of bronze sculptures organised on the occasion of Notte Bianca, *Ministry of Finance*.

15. **4 – 9 October:** ***Art in Public Spaces 2016-2018*** – An exhibition of proposals for public art projects during which the general public was invited to vote for the six projects to be developed and completed during 2016-18 was organised in collaboration with Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

16. **12 - 21 October:** ***Art in Public Spaces 2016-2018*** – An exhibition of proposals for public art projects during which the general public was invited to vote for the six projects to be developed and completed during 2016-18 was organised in collaboration with Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, *Il-Ħaġar – Heart of Gozo*.

17. **27 November - 8 December:** ***The Commonwealth and its People: Diasporas, Identities, Memories*** – Departure, Identity, Memory, Nostalgia and Return – An exhibition organised in collaboration with various national institutions, *House of Representatives of Malta*.

18. **28 November – 11 December:** ***Out of the Blue*** – An exhibition showcasing the winning images of The Prince of Wales's Commonwealth Environmental Photography Awards 2015 organised in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

19. **11 October 2014 – 4 January:** ***Gozo in Philatelic Art*** – An exhibition highlighting over fifty Maltese stamps featuring a 'Gozo' theme organised by the *Fondazzjoni Belt Victoria* in collaboration with MaltaPost and Festival Mediterranea and with the participation of HM, *Il-Ħaġar - Heart of Gozo*.

20. **18 October 2014 – 4 January:** ***Edward Lear: Watercolours and Words*** – An exhibition organised by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, *Palazzo Falson*.

21. **12 November 2014 – 5 January 2015:** ***Selfie*** – An exhibition of drawings by Giovanni Farrugia organised by Fondazzjoni għall-Kreattività as part of the 2014 Żigużajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young People, *St James Cavalier*.

22. **5 December 2014 – 5 January:** ***Isle Landers*** – An exhibition of photographs by Darren Zammit Lupi organised by Fondazzjoni għall-Kreattività, *St James Cavalier*.

23. **30 January – 5 February:** An exhibition on the occasion of the launching of the Aqueduct Commemorative Coin organised by the Central Bank of Malta, *Central Bank of Malta*.

24. **27 March – 1 April:** ***Freedom Day: 31 March 1979-2015*** – An exhibition commemorating the 36th anniversary of Freedom Day organised by the Ministry for Gozo, *Ministry for Gozo*.

25. **20 – 30 April:** ***Wignacourt Aqueduct 400th Anniversary*** – An exhibition featuring various documents relating to the aqueduct sourced by the National Library and HM, organised by HSBC Bank Malta plc and the Ministry for Energy and Health, HSBC Malta Head Office.

26. **23 April – 11 October:** ***TerrAntica – Faces, Myths and Representations of the Earth in the Ancient World*** – An exhibition organised by the *Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Roma, Colosseum* (Rome).

27. **12 May – 9 June:** ***Un/Burnished*** – A contemporary jewellery exhibition by Nadege Renee Cassar, *Malta Society of Arts*.

28. **13 - 27 May:** ***The Archived Past*** – The fourth tourism archives exhibition on Tourism and Migration organised by the Institute for Travel, Tourism and Culture of the UOM, *Auberge d'Italie*.

29. **22 May:** ***L-iżbark tat-Torok, 20 ta' Mejju 1565*** – An exhibition organised by the Għaqda Storja u Kultura Birżebbuġa, *St George's Chapel*.

30. **10 – 15 August:** ***Wirja Marjana 40 sena Inkurunazzjoni*** – An exhibition organised by the Mosta Parish, *Sala Papa Wojtyla*.

31. **31 August – 27 September:** ***The Culture*** – An exhibition organised as part of the 2015 Valletta International Visual Arts Festival by the Fondazzjoni għall-Kreattività, *St James Cavalier*.

32. **1 September – 3 October:** ***Il-Birgu Jfakkar l-Assedju l-Kbir*** - An exhibition organised by the Birgu Local Council, *Auberge de France*.

33. **1 September – 31 October:** ***Medallic Portraits of the Grand Masters of Malta*** – An exhibition of medallic portraits organised by the Central Bank of Malta, *Central Bank of Malta*.

34. **12 September – 31 October:** ***Mattia Preti, un cavaliere calabrese a Modica*** – An exhibition organised by the Soprintendenza per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali di Ragusa, at the Museo Civico ex Caserma dei Carabinieri, gia Convento dei Padri Carmelitani, *Modica* (Sicily).

35. **23 – 27 September:** ***Ix-Xlokk fl-Assedju l-Kbir*** – An exhibition organised by Wirt Żejtun, *Parish Church of St Catherine's Oratory*.

36. **9 October – 23 November:** ***Celebrating Antoine Camilleri 1922-2005*** – An exhibition organised by Antoine Paul Camilleri, *St James Cavalier*.

37. **6 November – 14 February 2016:** ***Watches, From Timekeepers to Trendsetters*** – An exhibition of historic and artistic antique watches organised by Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti, *Palazzo Falson Historic House Museum*.

38. **18 December – 17 January 2016:** ***Artisans Exhibition 2015*** – An exhibition organised by the Ministry for the Economy, Investment and Small Business, *Palazzo Zondadari*.

LECTURES ORGANISED / HOSTED BY HM

39. **14 January:** ***IDE@, l-Identità*** – Discussion by the Senior Curator of the National Museum of Fine Arts organised by the Centre for Creativity, *St James Cavalier*.

40. **28 January:** ***Industrial Advancement and Defence Strategies*** – A lecture by the Curator of Fort St Angelo on the occasion of the signing of a MOU between Simonds Farsons Cisk plc and the Farsons Foundation with HM, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

41. **13 February:** ***Il-Karnival Barokk f'Malta: Ritwali Viżivi, Miktuba u Mitkellma*** – A talk about one of Malta's most colourful traditions organised in collaboration with *Akkademja tal-Malti*. Dr William Zammit described the power relations and involvement of different strata of society with the Carnival in Baroque Malta, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

42. **25 February:** ***Malta's Industrial Heritage: Highlights and Challenges*** - A lecture by Prof. Robert Ghirlando on the occasion of the signing of a MOU between Simonds Farsons Cisk plc and the Farsons Foundation with HM, *University of Malta Valletta Campus*.

43. **12 March:** ***Insects of commercial value in Maltese culture and tradition*** – A lecture by Paul Portelli organised by the University's Institute of Maltese Studies, *National Museum of Natural History*.

44. **18 March:** ***The Etruscan Cinerary Urns in the National Collection*** – A public lecture by Senior Curator Sharon Sultana organised by the Archaeological Society Malta, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

45. **25 March:** A presentation by the CEO on ***Glancing at the past, reflecting on the future: A decade of partnership between HM and the University College of London's Institute for Sustainable Heritage*** on the occasion of its tenth anniversary, *Society of Antiquaries* (London).

46. **29 March:** ***Wirt il-Kottonera - wirt pajjiżek: Sensiela ta' Laqgħat Informattivi*** – A lecture to increase the appreciation of all elements of built heritage within Cottonera and its suburbs, including its fortifications, architectural monuments and underground passages, organised by the Cottonera Rehabilitation Committee, the Rehabilitation Projects Office and the Ministry for Transport and Infrastructure, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

47. **23 April:** *L-Aħħar Kursara tal-Ordni Quddiem l-Inkwiżitur: Skjav, Midgħi u Teżor fil-Bitħa* – A lecture by Curator Liam Gauci organised by the Malta Historical Society at the *Inquisitor's Palace*.

48. **30 April & 21 May:** ***Chocolate and coffee in 17th and 18th century Malta*** – A presentation and historic cook-along session by Dr Noel Buttigieg and chef Josef Baldacchino organised by the Malta Historical Society, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

49. **13 May:** ***From Roundhouse to Romano-British Villa and Beyond: Excavations at Barcombe, Sussex, England*** – A lecture by David Rudling on the excavations which took place at Barcombe in East Sussex from 2001 to 2012, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

50. **14 May:** ***Caravaggio on the Frontier*** – A lecture by senior curator Sandro Debono presenting Caravaggio's response to 17th century Malta as frontier territory on the edge of Catholic Europe, organised in collaboration with the International Institute for Baroque Studies (UOM), *National Museum of Archaeology*.

51. **20 May:** ***Visuals of the Great Siege*** – A seminar on the frescoes of the Great Siege by Perez D'Aleccio, including investigative and scientific tests to analyse the composition of these works of art, *Grand Master's Palace.*

52. **28 May:** ***Please touch!*** – A talk on historical archaeology followed by the opportunity to handle artefacts recovered during archaeological excavations at the Inquisitor's Palace (1998-2002) ranging from Maltese pottery to Dutch gin bottles and more, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

53. **27 June:** ***Heritage Through the Lens*** – A lecture on early photographic techniques in Malta and a workshop with conservators and professional photographers, followed by a guided tour of *Fort St Elmo.*

54. **9 July:** ***Multi-diversity and different audiences within a museum*** – A lecture by Dr Christine Winters, a senior lecturer at the University of Sheffield, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

55. **24 July:** ***Itinerarivm Romanvm Serbiae and Archaeological Park Viminacivm*** – A talk by Dr Nemanja Mrđić (Scientific researcher at the Institute of Archaeology, Belgrade) about the cultural route connecting the birth places of the 18 Roman emperors born in Serbia and Viminacivm, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

56. **3 September:** ***Revenants: Degas in New Orleans*** – A public lecture by Gail Feigenbaum, associate director of the Getty Research Institute, as one of a series of events of VIVA, *National Museum of Fine Arts.*

57. **28 – 29 October:** ***1565: The Great Siege Conference*** – A conference in commemoration of the Great Siege of 1565 and its effects on Maltese and Mediterranean society, organised in collaboration with the Malta Libraries with scholars from England, Rome, Turkey and Malta, *Fort St Angelo.*

58. **11 November:** ***The Mediterranean's Vienna: the Impact of the Great Siege on European History*** – A lecture organised by the Malta Historical Society delivered by Roger Crawley, acclaimed author of *Empires of the Sea*, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

59. **17 November:** ***Memorji Nazzjonali Oġġettivament Korretti: L-Arkivji Nazzjonali*** – The National Archives annual public Lecture delivered by H.E. Dr Ugo Mifsud Bonnici, President Emeritus, during the National Archives Awareness Week 2015 on the occasion of the 25th anniversary from the enactment of the first National Archives Act in Malta, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

60. **20 November:** ***Tahditiet b'rabta mal-450 anniversarju tal-Assedju l-Kbir*** – A public lecture by Dr Marco Galea and Dr Adrian Grima organised in collaboration with l-Akkademja tal-Malti, *Grand Master's Palace.*

EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

61. **6 January:** ***Stolen Ciborium*** – An extra-curricular activity organised for children aged 10 to 14 years including a re-enactment of a real life trial of a thief from the Inquisitor's records followed by a tour of 'The Roman Inquisition in Malta' exhibition, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

62. **6 January:** ***Malta before Man: An introduction to Malta's Geology and Palaeontology*** - A presentation to University of Malta Trainee History Teachers, *University of Malta.*

63. **17 January:** ***The Complete History of Malta (More or Less)*** – A hilarious family show which offered a madcap yet incredibly accurate crash course on the history of Malta followed by an animated tour of the exhibition 'Malta – The Great Story of a small Island-Nation through 100 Objects', *National Museum of Archaeology*.

64. **19 & 21 January:** An activity organised for primary school children consisting of a brief tour of the '100 Objects' exhibition followed by a session in Trash Archaeology, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

65. **26 & 30 January:** A ***pre-historic activity*** for primary school children consisting of a tour of the pre-historic section of the museum focusing on fashion and design followed by a hands-on activity, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

66. **31 January - 24 February:** A ***pre-historic activity*** for children aged 10 to 13 years by MTA under the Turu Octopus Project consisting of a tour of the pre-historic section of the museum focusing on fashion and design followed by a hands-on activity, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

67. **1 February:** ***Public Service Week*** – On this occasion HM opened all its museums and sites for free. Three behind-the-scenes tours were offered at the National Museum of Natural History, and a special presentation on MUŻA followed by a tour, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

68. **2 February:** ***Communicating without words*** – A prehistoric activity for children aged 5 years consisting of a short tour of the pre-historic section, a short slide presentation on the different ways of communicating in signs, pictures or colours followed with a hands-on session, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

69. **10 February:** ***In Search of St Paul*** – A heritage trail on the national feast celebrating Malta's patron saint including of a tour of the *Wignacourt Museum & Catacombs, St Paul's Grotto, St Paul's Catacombs* and *San Pawl Milqi*.

70. **11 - 12 February:** ***Great Siege Parade*** – An activity for primary school children to promote awareness on the influence of the Great Siege on Maltese daily life consisting of a tour through the streets of Birgu, the Great Siege monument and the Grand Master de Valette's sword and hat, followed by a re-enactment of the traditional carnival parade which commemorates the Knights' victory over the Turks, *St Lawrence Church Parvis* (Birgu).

71. **16 February:** ***Maltese Carnival Traditions*** – An activity for children consisting of a short tour of the carnival section of the museum explaining its connection to Lent, including Easter traditions, followed by a demonstration of how to make the traditional carnival sweet xkumvat, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

72. **16 - 17 February:** ***L-Għaġina tan-Nanna*** – A hands-on educational event for children consisting of a short tour of the windmill followed by a session of traditional pastry making, *Ta' Kola Windmill*.

73. **16 February:** ***Il-Qarċilla*** – An original and unique carnival event consisting of a short talk by Olvin Vella about the linguistic value of the ancient *qrieċel*, a performance and a small exhibition of authentic specimens of *qrieċel* followed by a reception, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

74. **17 February:** ***Il-Qarċilla*** – An original and unique carnival event consisting of a short talk by Dr Bernard Micallef about the literary value of the first *qarċilla*, a performance and a small

exhibition of authentic specimens of *qrieċel* followed by a reception, *National Museum of Natural History*.

75. **25 February:** ***Seminar re Project MT02/3*** – A New Environmental Management System at the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum, organised for stakeholders of the tourism industry, *Ħagar Qim Visitor Centre*.

76. **9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 March:** ***Easter Thematic Activity*** to year 4 to 6 students including a tour of the Palace with emphasis on Easter, followed by a cookery demonstration and tasting session of traditional Lent time biscuits kwareżimal, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

77. **20 – 21 March:** Guided tours of *Mnajdra Temples* and the visitor centre on the occasion of the ***Spring Equinox***.

78. **23 March:** Thematic activity on ***l-Għid il-Kbir u s-Superstizzjonijiet*** – A tour for secondary students on Good Friday, followed by a tribunal re-enactment and a cookery demonstration of traditional Lent time biscuits kwareżimal, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

79. **28 March:** ***Play with Clay*** – An activity organised for MTA under the Turu Octopus Project for 6-13 year olds including an explanation of daily life of Neolithic people with particular focus on the use of pottery and a hands-on clay activity, *Ġgantija Temples*.

80. **1 April:** ***Discovering Buskett*** – An extra-curricular thematic activity for children aged 10-14 years to discover the importance of Buskett not only from the historical aspect but also from its ecological point of view. These included exercises in listening to sounds with eyes closed, bark rubbing, tree hugging and searching for the tree related to each child through their birth date. Children were presented with a certificate of participation.

81. **2 April:** On the occasion of ***Maundy Thursday***, the *Inquisitor's Palace* opened until midnight.

82. **7 April:** ***Prehistoric Fashion*** – An extra-curricular thematic activity for children aged 10-14 years including a tour of the visitor centre focusing on jewellery, clothing, decorations, etc and seeing actual surviving artefacts followed by a short video on pre-historic fashion and a hands-on activity, at *Ħaġar Qim*. Children were presented with a certificate of participation.

83. **25 April:** Seminar on the history of the Great Carrack Sant'Anna and on its model construction, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

84. **26 April:** Tour of ***Tas-Silġ*** for HM members.

85. **29 April:** ***Book reading sessions*** – Two reading sessions from the book L-Ewwel 35,000,000 sena ta' Ħajti, *Żejtun Primary School*.

86. **3 May:** ***Open Day*** at the *Inquisitor's Palace*.

87. **10 May:** ***Open Day*** at *Fort St Elmo*.

88. **11 – 15 May:** ***Ġmiel il-Ħrafa*** – A thematic activity for Year 4 primary students consisting of a brief tour of the museum highlighting traditional aspects, an animated reading of the legend 'Id-Dragun Drangantil' followed by a session of preparing traditional Maltese sweets 'il-biskuttini tar-raħal', *Inquisitor's Palace*.

89. **16 May:** A ***sleep-over*** by a group from Skola Sport accompanied by their tutors, *Fort St Elmo*.

90. **17 May:** An activity organised for MTA under the Turu Octopus Project for children consisting of a brief explanation and tour on the daily life of the mariners and life at sea in general followed by games, traditional dances and other period re-enactments, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

91. **17 May:** ***Life at Sea 2015, Dawn of the Great Siege*** – Birgu's piazza and waterfront were transformed into a hub of activity including food stalls, music, pageantry and re-enactors to commemorate the 450 years from the Great Siege, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

92. **17 May:** ***The Great Siege of 1565 Harbour Tour***.

93. **18 May:** Outreach activity including a number of short presentations and discussions on the Great Siege led by curators and conservators supplemented by the presence of authentic armour of the Great Siege, *St Vincent De Paule Residence*.

94. **19 May:** ***Outreach to Schools*** – Book reading sessions of HM's publication L-ewwel 35,000,000 sena ta' ħajti, *Birżebbuġa Primary School*.

95. **19 May:** An educational and fun activity for *Birzebbuġa Primary School* children focusing on the ***Disembarkment of the Turks in 1565***.

96. **29 May:** ***Roman Life*** – A thematic activity for primary school children consisting of a short tour of the museum focusing on clothing and the architecture of the Domvs, followed by three other activities, *Domvs Romana*.

97. **7 June:** *Għar Dalam* was open at a reduced admission fee on the occasion of ***World Environment Day***.

98. **15 June:** ***Outreach to Schools***: Book reading sessions to primary school students, *Zejtun Primary School*.

99. **20 – 21 June:** Guided tours of *Mnajdra, Ħaġar Qim* and the visitor centre for the ***Summer Solstice***.

100. **26, 27 & 28 June:** ***1565: First and Last Hope*** – An interactive and site-specific performance focusing on the events prior, during and after the Great Siege of 1565, *Fort St Elmo*.

101. **2 July:** ***Għar Dalam Dig*** – HM young members were invited to dig for animal bones in specially prepared sand pits at *Għar Dalam*, followed by a visit to the cave and some refreshments.

102. **7 – 9 July, 18, 22 – 23 September:** ***In-service course for history teachers*** at HM's Head Office, *National Museum of Natural History and St Paul's Catacombs*.

103. **13 July:** Open morning at ***Kordin III Excavation*** – HM members were invited to join the FRAGSUS team carrying out excavations at the *Kordin III site*.

104. **13 – 16 & 24 July:** ***Children summer school activities*** including crafts, a treasure hunt and a tour of *Fort St Elmo*.

105. **15 July:** ***Shadows of the Great Siege*** – An animated tour of the streets of *Senglea and Birgu* during which participants were guided through places of interest and encountered various characters who featured in the Great Siege of 1565.

106. **17 July:** ***Sunset Heritage Trail*** at *Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra, Misqa Tanks, the Congreve Memorial and Ħamrija Tower.*

107. **28 July:** A guided tour of *Ggantija* for ***Skola Sajf*** students.

108. **31 July:** ***Għar Dalam under a Full Moon*** – A moonlight tour of the museum, garden and cave followed by a light meal.

109. **31 July:** A tour and jewellery-making activity organised for ***San Lawrenz Parish Summer School*** students, *Ġgantija Temples.*

110. **8 August:** ***Sue Mifsud Pottery Activity*** – A presentation for children about pottery in archaeology followed by a tour of the museum and hands on session, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

111. **12 August:** A guided tour of *Ħaġar Qim* for the ***Għaxaq Skola Sajf*** students.

112. **13 August:** A brief tour of the visitor centre and the 5D show followed by puzzles, colouring and temple building with a pottery session for the ***Żebbuġ Skola Sajf*** students, at *Ħaġar Qim.*

113. **14 August:** Official presentation of a copy of a ***Map from the Ming Dynasty by Captain Zhai Mo***, on the occasion of the 2015 Retrace Maritime Silk Road, *Malta Maritime Museum.*

114. **15 August:** The *National War Museum* and the *Gran Castello Sites* were open at a reduced admission fee on the occasion of the feast of the ***Assumption of Our Lady.***

115. **17, 18, 20, 21 August:** ***Logħob Tradizzjonali Malti*** organised for Żurrieq Skola Sajf students, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

116. **8 September:** ***Open day*** at *all Heritage Malta museums and sites* (excluding The Grand Master's Palace State Rooms and Armoury and the Hypogeum) on the occasion of Victory Day.

117. **12 September:** An event to observe two groups of ***nocturnal creatures***, bats and moths, with the use of specialised apparatus including a bat detector, a talk, a tour of the cave followed by refreshments, *Għar Dalam.*

118. **22-23 September:** Guided tours of *Mnajdra Temples* on the occasion of the ***Equinox.***

119. 27 September: On the occasion of ***World Tourism Day***, *all HM's museums and sites* (except the Hypogeum and the Grand Master's Palace State Rooms and Armoury) opened to the public at a reduced entrance fee of €5.

120. **30 September:** Book launch of the publication ***The Late Prehistory of Malta: Essays on Borġ in-Nadur and other sites***, at Grand Salon, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

121. **30 September:** Official presentation of ***donation of artworks*** by *Fr Marius Zerafa* to HM, at the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government.

122. **2 October:** ***Official inauguration of St Paul's Catacombs*** by the Hon. Dr Owen Bonnici, Hon. Dr Ian Borg and European Commissioner for Regional Politics Corina Creţu.

123. **4 October:** ***Open Day*** at *St Paul's Catacombs*.

124. **8 – 23 October:** ***Great Siege activities for children*** consisting of street drama, art and music workshops and a visit to the Great Siege exhibition, at the *National Museum of Archaeology, the Grand Master's Palace and HM's Showcase*.

125. 12-23 October: ***Great Siege activities for children*** consisting of history, home economics, drama and art and music workshops, *Fort St Angelo*.

126. **9 – 11 October:** ***Birgufest*** – The *Malta Maritime Museum and the Inquisitor's Palace* opened till late at a reduced price.

127. **11 October:** ***Birgufest*** – *Fort St Angelo* opened to the public at a reduced price of €2 which also included the *Malta Maritime Museum* and the *Inquisitor's Palace*.

128. **16 October:** ***Curator's Tour*** for Heritage Malta members of '1565 – The Great Siege of Malta Exhibition', *Grand Master's Palace*.

129. **17 October:** ***1565: A New Era*** – A tour focusing on the Great Siege, the fortifications and the effect of the siege in European history followed by a coffee break during which participants watched the fleet participating in the Middle Sea Race, *Fort St Elmo*.

130. **16 – 29 October:** ***L-Għadam tal-Mejtin*** – Tour of the museum and All Soul's traditional food-making activity, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

131. **28 October:** Official ***presentation of the donation of a drawing by artist Nicholas Pocock*** (1840-1921) to HM by Prof Terrance Duggan, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

132. **30 October:** ***Official inauguration of Fort St Angelo*** by the Hon. Prime Minister.

133. **31 October – 1 November:** ***Fort St Angelo*** opened to the public against a donation of €1.

134. **2 November:** ***L-Għadam tal-Ħelu u Tradizzjonijiet oħrajn marbuta mal-Għid tal-Erwieħ*** – An event for children which included a short tour of the windmill focusing on the traditions and food associated with the feast 'l-Għid tal-Erwieħ', *Ta' Kola Windmill*.

135. **4 November:** ***Official launch of seven HM Publications*** by the Hon. Minister of Justice, Culture and Local Government at the HM book stand, *Mediterranean Conference Centre*.

136. **8 November:** On the occasion of the feast of St Martin and the event ***Ludi Plebeii***, the *Domvs Romana* and the *National Museum of Natural History* opened to the public at a reduced entrance fee of €2.

137. **9 November:** ***Historic Tour of Valletta*** – A tour of Valletta organised for a group of Gozitan secondary students.

138. **10 November & 3 December:** ***Diagnostic Physicochemical Applications to Cultural Heritage: Bridging Theory and Application*** – An event for 6th Form students including a brief explanation of theoretical applications, demonstrations related to analysis and interpretation on a selected number of instruments, *Bighi*.

139. **13 & 16 November:** ***Niltaqgħu mal-Falkun fil-Buskett*** – An event organised for primary and secondary students including a short tour of the gardens followed by a session with

the Malta Falconry Club where the students took turns to fly some falcons, *Buskett Gardens*.

140. **17 – 20 November:** ***Maths Trail*** – An event organised for primary students designed to link strands and units of the mathematical curriculum. The trail was also linked and integrated with other subject areas such as history, *Ta' Bistra Catacombs*.

141. **20 November:** ***L-Għid tal-Erwieħ*** – A thematic event including insights into the Inquisition and cases of supernatural invocations and apparitions, a traditional supper in remembrance of the souls and a sleep-over in the 17th century prisons, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

142. **23 – 25 November:** ***Folklor Malti, Ilbies u Superstizzjoni*** – An activity organised for secondary students including a presentation on the cotton and wool industry, a tour of part of the reserve collection and the prison cells and a re-enactment with period costumes by the students, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

143. **1 & 4 December:** ***Stepping back in the Middle Ages***, the Tombstone of Majmuna and more: Hands-on activities for secondary school students, *Gozo Museum of Archaeology*.

144. **5 – 6 December:** ***The 1565 Great Siege of Malta*** exhibition and the former *Parliament Chamber* were open to the public at a reduced fee of €5 per person.

145. **7 December: HM Members'** get together at *Fort St Elmo*.

146. 9 – 17 December: A ***Christmas thematic activity for school groups*** consisting of a brief tour of the museum highlighting the nativity display and a hands-on session, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

147. **11 December:** ***Fine Art Reproduction Photography*** – An insightful presentation for both professionals and enthusiasts by Mr Paul Mizzi organised for HM members at *Fort St Elmo*.

148. **21 December:** Guided tours of *Mnajdra Temples* and the *Visitor Centre* on the occasion of the *Winter Solstice*.

149. **22 December:** ***The Complete History of Malta (More or Less)*** – A hilarious show offering a crazy yet incredibly accurate crash course in the history of Malta, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

EVENTS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

150. **11 March:** ***Careers Day*** – HM took part in the Careers Day for Secondary School students of *De La Salle College*.

151. **17 – 18 March:** ***Heritage Interpretation for Senior Audiences (HISA)***: An EU funded project to enhance the learning experience of seniors visiting heritage sites and museums. HM supported this initiative with visits to *St Paul's Catacombs* and the *Domvs Romana*.

152. **14 April:** Ceremonial re-enactment of the ***award of the George Cross*** to the people of Malta to mark the 73rd anniversary, *St George's Square* (Valletta).

153. **18 – 19 April:** ***Medieval Mdina*** – Reduced admission fee for the Domvs Romana and the National Museum of Natural History, and re-enactments by Compagnia San Michele,

tours, display by a falconer and static displays including an artist painting, a medieval tableware with typical food items, a sculptor working and a medieval barber surgeon, *National Museum of Natural History*.

154. **19 April:** Guided tours at a reduced price at *Ta' Ħaġrat* on the occasion of ***Festa Frawli*** organised by the Mġarr Local Council.

155. **26 April:** Reduced admission fee for the *Ġgantija Temples* and *Ta' Kola Windmill* on the occasion of ***Xagħra Day***.

156. **17 May:** Tour of *Skorba Temples* on the occasion of the ***Żebbiegħ Agriculture Festival***.

157. **31 May:** Reduced admission fee for *Ħaġar Qim* and *Mnajdra* on the occasion of the ***Qrendi Potato Festival***.

158. **30 June - 4 July:** ***Preserving our Heritage, Preserving our Values*** – 2015 Australian Environmental Law Enforcement Conference organised by the Australian Environment Law Association, at the Green C Lounge, *Phoenicia Hotel*.

159. **25 September:** ***Science in the City*** – Late night opening with reduced admission fee, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

160. **4 October:** ***Notte Bianca*** – HM Valletta museums opened till late for free and a discounted admission ticket of €5 for the 1565: The Great Siege of Malta exhibition, *Grand Master's Palace*.

161. **28 – 29 November:** *Magna Carta 800 Global Tour* – Malta: official opening ceremony and a display of the 1215 King John's document organised by the British High Commission and the National Library of Malta, *National Library of Malta*.

162. **4 December:** ***Empowering Tomorrow*** – The 3rd Mediterranean Tourism Forum organised by the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association, *Intercontinental Conference Centre*.

EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

163. **31 January:** ***Prehistoric Fashion*** – An activity for children organised in collaboration with the MTA consisting of a tour of the museum focusing on fashion followed by a hands-on crafts creating prehistoric fashion, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

164. **1 & 22 February, 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 March, 12, 19 & 26 April, 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31 May, 7, 14 & 21 June, 5 & 12 July, 20 & 27 September, 4, 11, 18 & 25 October, 27 December:** ***In Guardia*** – Full scale military drills and re-enactments in period costumes organised in collaboration with MTA, *Fort St Elmo*.

165. **20 February:** ***Inauguration of Ta' Bistra Catacombs*** – Archaeotur Project by Parliamentary Secretary Dr Stefan Buontempo and Mosta Mayor Dr Shirley Farrugia, organised in collaboration with the Mosta Local Council.

166. **21 March:** ***Natural Habitat Heritage Trail*** – A tour exploring different natural habitats in Malta including a visit to the National Aquarium followed by a visit to Simar Nature Reserve in Xemxija, organised in collaboration with the Malta National Aquarium.

167. **29 March:** ***Industrial Heritage tour*** – A tour exploring Malta's industrial heritage including Tal-Palma (Mġarr) Underground Emergency Flour Mill and the Buses at Malta Shipbuilding was organised in collaboration with the Farsons Foundation.

168. **14 & 27 April:** ***Folklor Malti: Ilbies u Superstizzjoni*** – An activity for secondary students organised with the Department of Education focusing on the Maltese language, including a tour of the museum, a presentation on the cotton and wool industry followed by a clothing re-enactment of a real inquisitorial case, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

169. **5 May:** ***Alternative Learning Programme*** – Hands on activities for students with behaviour issues and difficult background organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, *St Paul's Catacombs*.

170. **7 - 8 May:** ***Europe Day Activities*** – Fun and learning day for primary school children consisting of a tour of the Fort highlighting the Great Siege, short intervals of plays depicting fictitious everyday lives of civilians and soldiers within the fort during the two major wars, art and music sessions and a fun quiz on Europe and European countries was organised in collaboration with the European Commission Representation in Malta and the Drama Unit, *Fort St Elmo*.

171. **8 May:** ***Official inauguration of Fort St Elmo*** by the Hon. Prime Minister, in collaboration with the Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation.

172. **23 June:** ***Commemoration of the fall of the Fort in 1565*** – A commemorative mass to remember and honour the fallen heroes who died at Fort St Elmo followed by a reception was organised in collaboration with Demicoli & Associates, *Fort St Elmo*.

173. **10 September:** ***Malta Bat Night*** – An evening event organised in collaboration with MEPA on the occasion of the European Bat Night consisting of a number of presentations and hearing the 'silent' songs of the bats by means of a Bat Detector, *National Museum of Natural History*.

174. **18 September:** A reception organised in collaboration with the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Valletta Local Council as part of the project ***'Naqsam il-MUŻA'***, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

175. **25 September:** Launching of a joint numismatic product consisting of a ***silver coin*** issued by the Central Bank of Malta and a silver foil issued by HM commemorating the 450th Anniversary of the Great Siege of Malta of 1565, *Grand Master's Palace*.

176. **10 October:** A ***concert by French musicians*** organised in collaboration with the Office of The President in aid of the Malta Community Chest Fund, at the Salon, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

177. **14 October:** ***Malta Bat Night*** – An evening event organised in collaboration with MEPA consisting of a number of presentations and hearing the 'silent' songs of bats by means of a bat detector, *National Museum of Natural History*.

178. **27 October:** A ***map viewing session*** for Dr Alexander Kent showcased highlights from the Albert Ganado Map Collection, organised by the Geography Department of the University of Malta in collaboration with HM and the Malta Map Society, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

179. **4 – 8 November:** ***National Book Festival*** – A record number of publications were available from HM's stand, *Mediterranean Conference Centre*.

180. **20 November:** ***General clean-up of Fort Delimara*** by HSBC employees as part of the corporate social responsibility programme of the bank.

181. **27 November:** Official inauguration of the '***Out of the Blue***' exhibition and award ceremony of the Prince of Wales Commonwealth Environmental Photography awards by HRH The Prince of Wales, organised in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

182. **28 November:** ***Official visit to HM Conservation Laboratories by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Duke of Edinburgh*** organised in collaboration with the British High Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister.

183. **2 December:** ***The Hour of Code*** – Launch of a worldwide digital game organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, *Museum of Archaeology*.

184. **4 December:** Launch of a ***digital history game In the Bastions and the book A bird's eye view of the Great Siege*** followed by a tour of the Palace and the 1565: The Great Siege of Malta Exhibition organised in collaboration with MITA Innovation Hub, *Grand Master's Palace*.

EVENTS HOSTED BY HM

185. **23 January:** ***Cena del Corso*** – An exceptional evening loaded with historical information on Maltese corsairs, good food and wine organised by the Notarial Archives Resources Council, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

186. **3 March:** ***Official launch of the Offenders Rehabilitation Board*** by the Hon. Minister Dr Owen Bonnici, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

187. **15 March:** The ***GLARAC Association*** held a memorial service under the patronage of the President of the Republic, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the loss of Maltese seamen who perished during the Norwegian campaign in the Arctic Circle along with 1,500 British seamen serving on *HMS Glorious*, *Ardent* and *Acasta*, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

188. **8 March:** ***A press conference by BirdLife Malta*** as part of the referendum campaign, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

189. **10-13, 20, 23-26 March:** ***Emigration Awareness Project activities*** – Workshops for Form 2 students to promote awareness on the effects of emigration, organised by the Education Directorate as part of the 5th Convention for the Maltese Living Abroad 2015, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

190. **22 March, 19 April & 24 May:** ***Pre-lunchtime concerts*** organised by the Research, Innovative and Development Trust of the University of Malta, *Tal-Pilar Church*.

191. **1 April:** ***Napprezzaw ir-Rabat u l-Imdina*** – A tour of *St Paul's Catacombs*, the *Roman Domvs*, the *National Museum of Natural History* and various churches was organised by Fondazzjoni Nazareth.

192. **19 April:** ***Episodes from the Great War*** – The Friends of the Malta Maritime Museum annual seminar, *Malta Maritime Museum*.

193. **23 April:** ***Book launch of the publication Duende*** by Lizzie Eldridge, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

194. 28 April: Launch of the ***San Anton School Grade 6's Kreattiv Project*** publication *Every Painting has a Story*, *National Museum of Fine Arts*.

195. **11 May:** ***Start-App 15K*** – A press conference by Parliamentary Secretary Dr Jose Herrera and organised by MITA to announce the winners of the Start-App 15K competitive call covering the development of a mobile app in the areas of cultural heritage and development planning, *Tarxien Temples*.

196. **21 May:** ***Press conference by Wintermoods*** to launch their concert to be held in June, *Fort St Elmo*.

197. **23 May:** ***The President's Cruise for Solidarity*** – Press conference for the launching of national activities in aid of the Community Chest Fund by the President of Malta, *HM Head Office*.

198. **1 June:** ***Press conference by the President of Malta*** regarding the Presidents' Ball, *Ġgantija Temples*.

199. **13 June:** ***Winter Moods 30th Anniversary Concert***, *Fort St Elmo*.

200. **15 – 21 June:** ***Valletta Film Festival*** – A 750 seat outdoor cinema at the main piazza hosted screenings from the main competition section. During the festival, various press conferences, discussions and social events were also held, *Fort St Elmo*.

201. **27 June:** ***The President's Moon Ball***, *Ġgantija Temples*.

202. **2 July:** ***Gvern li Jisma'*** – Public Consultation with the Cabinet, *Fort St Elmo*.

203. **8 July:** ***BirdLife Malta 53rd Annual General Meeting***, *National Museum of Natural History*.

204. **9 July:** ***HSBC Annual Concert***, *Fort St Elmo*.

205. **9 July:** ***In-service Course for ICT Teachers*** by the Education Department, *Inquisitor's Palace*.

206. **15 July:** ***Launch of Heritage Interpretation Handbook for Seniors*** by the Heritage Interpretation for Senior Audiences (HISA) as part of a Lifelong Learning Grundvig Project organised by the University of Malta, *Ta' Bistra Catacombs*.

207. **22, 24-26, 29, 31 July, 1& 2 August:** ***Faith, Hope & Charity*** – An epic play set in Malta at the start of the Second World War, *Fort St Elmo*.

208. **27–29 August:** ***Festival Mediterranju tal-Letteratura ta' Malta 2015*** organised by the Mediterranean Institute of the University of Malta in collaboration with Inizjamed, *Fort St Elmo.*

209. **5 September:** ***Electrifyng Elmo*** – An event aimed at bringing life and culture organised by Cultural Events Brand Malta, including a number of Maltese and foreign street artists performing fire dancing, acoustic sessions, magic shows and a spectacular light display on the bastion wall, *Fort St Elmo.*

210. **7 September:** ***In-service Course for Teachers focusing on Ethics*** by the Education Department, *Fort St Elmo.*

211. **8 September:** ***Laying of Flowers on the Victim's Grave*** by the Arts Council Malta, *Fort St Angelo.*

212. **18, 22 – 23 September:** ***In-service Course for Teachers focusing on ADHD Special Needs***, *Fort St Elmo.*

213. **18, 22 – 23 September:** ***In-service Course for Arabic Teachers*** by the Education Department, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

214. **18 September:** ***Farsons Foundation Anniversary Concert and Reception***, *Fort St Elmo.*

215. **19 September:** ***Press Conference on the Film Industry*** by the Hon Dr Edward Zammit Lewis, Minister for Tourism, *Fort St Elmo.*

216. **3 October:** ***Band'Oħra*** - A night of eclectic music headlined by Beangrowers featuring Explicit, Infinite Loop, Angelcrypt, Forsaken, Marmalja and Plato's Dream Machine organised by the Malta Arts Council on the occasion of Notte Bianca, *Fort St Elmo.*

217. **16 October:** ***It-Tradizzjoni tat-Traduzzjoni*** – A conference on the translation tradition in Malta organised by *Inizjamed* and the Director General of Translation of the European Commission as part of the Translating for Europe Workshop, *Malta Maritime Museum.*

218. **4 November:** ***Agatha f'Għajnejn l-Istorja*** – A discussion organised by the *Partit Laburista* at the Salon, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

219. **2 – 8 November:** ***The Three Palaces Music Festival 2015***, *National Museum of Archaeology.*

220. **6 November:** ***Gvern li Jisma'*** – Public consultation with the Cabinet, *Malta Maritime Museum.*

221. **11 – 12 November:** ***Valletta Summit*** - *Fort St Elmo* was transformed into a Media Centre from where around 1000 journalist broadcasted the Valletta Migration Summit across the globe.

222. **11 – 14 November:** ***History Week 2015*** – A symposium about the 1565 Great Siege, the founding of Valletta and their lasting effects was organised by the Malta Historical Society and the Department of History of the University of Malta in collaboration with the Embassy of Spain and MASMOM, *Inquisitor's Palace.*

223. **22 November:** ***Gvern li Jisma'*** – Public consultation with the Cabinet, *Fort St Angelo.*

224. **28 November**: ***Commonwealth Heads of Government Retreat***, Fort St angelo

225. **10 December: Launch of *Nestlé Malta Xeni ta' Malta*** limited edition chocolate series by Perugina, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

226. **15 December: *Launch of the book History of Ornithology in Malta*** organised by BirdLife Malta, *National Museum of Archaeology*.

227. **20 December: *Lunchtime Concert*** organised by the Research Trust of the University of Malta, *Tal-Pilar Church.*

228. **20 December: *Santa's Biggest Dress Up*** – The activity included animation for children by popular characters, games, circus animators, exhibitions, traditional Christmas food and drinks organised by The Inspire Foundation, *Fort St Angelo*.

229. **26 December: *Launch of the book Pellegrinaġġ*** by the late Toni Demicoli organised by the Ministry of Education, *Fort St Elmo*.