

# **Heritage Malta**

## **Annual Report**

**2010**

In accordance with the provisions of the Cultural Heritage Act 2002, the Board of Directors of Heritage Malta herewith submits the Annual Report and Accounts for the calendar year 2010.

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## List of Abbreviations

AFM	Armed Forces of Malta
CMS	Collections Management System
EAFRD	European Agricultural Regional Development Funds
ERDF	European Regional Development Funds
EU	European Union
HM	Heritage Malta
ICMCH	Institute of Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage, Bighi
MCAST	Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology
MCCA	Malta Council for Culture and the Arts
MCESD	Malta Council for Economic and Social Development
MEPA	Malta Environment and Planning Authority
MMM	Malta Maritime Museum, Vittoriosa
MRAE	Ministry for Resources and Environment
MRRA	Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs
MTA	Malta Tourism Authority
MTAC	Ministry for Tourism and Culture
NMA	National Museum of Archaeology, Valletta
NMFA	National Museum of Fine Arts, Valletta
NMNH	National Museum of Natural History, Mdina
NWM	National War Museum, Valletta
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
PPCD	Planning and Priorities Coordination Department, OPM
SCH	Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Malta
SPC	St Paul's Catacombs, Rabat
UCL	University College of London
UOM	University of Malta
VRP	Valletta Rehabilitation Project

Unless otherwise stated, all dates refer to the period under review: 1 January – 31 December 2010.

# Mission Statement

The mission of Heritage Malta is to safeguard and render accessible the cultural heritage entrusted to it, thus contributing towards a better appreciation of Malta's cultural identity. While conserving and managing the cultural assets in its responsibility in a sustainable manner, Heritage Malta is committed to provide physical and intellectual access to all, and to improve the experience of all visitors in all its sites and museums.

# Chairman's Statement

During the year under review the Agency strove to conserve its forty museums and sites together with the thousands of artefacts forming the National Collection.

Our focus remains that of rendering these accessible to the general public as far as possible. We believe that in 2010 we achieved this through a long and varied list of events, including lectures, exhibitions, heritage trails, educational programmes, seminars, publications, interpretation facilities and also media coverage. Our Conservation Division also carried out numerous interventions on artefacts from the National Collection.

Such initiatives were complemented by the staging of a number of Open Days at various museums and sites. Paying visitors in 2010 reached levels of 1,065,957 (2009: 1,043,829) while that of non-paying visitors was 104,620 (2009: 100,295).

The major project concluded in 2010 was the completion of the visitor centre and protective shelters over the Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples. Significant progress was also made in other ERDF projects including Ggantija Temples, St Paul's Catacombs and Tarxien Temples, while a substantial EAFRD grant was also secured for the rehabilitation of the Ghajn Tuffieha Roman Baths and Ta' Bistra Catacombs. Restoration works also commenced at Fort St Angelo, while other works progressed substantially elsewhere, including the NMA, the Inquisitor's Palace and the MMM. The implementation of a number of other EU-funded projects has continued; applications for new projects submitted and preparations are underway for the application for funding of two major projects at Fort St Elmo (in conjunction with Grand Harbour Regeneration Corporation) and Fort St Angelo.

Apart from our ongoing programme of acquisitions, we further enriched the National Collection through a salvage operation of thousands of objects related to industrial heritage at the former Malta Drydocks. These should go a long way towards the creation of an Industrial Heritage Museum in the not too distant future.

The Agency ended 2010 with a surplus of €54,959 (2009 €393,604). The variation over 2009 was mainly due to a one-off financial injection by Government of €500,000 in 2009. Moreover an extraordinary expense of €83,342 was incurred in 2010 in connection with the transfer of our Head Office operations from Valletta to Bighi.

At an operational level we also sought to upgrade and strengthen our activities so as to increase efficiency and maximise resources. This should ensure that HM will continue to be in a position to face both ongoing as well as new challenges that invariably present themselves. Various initiatives were taken with regard to human resources development including a number of training programmes for a wide cross-section of staff. Undoubtedly the high level of competent staff within the Agency is a strong asset and investment in training and development should continue to be a major priority.

In the coming years Heritage Malta will to continue with the implementation of its strategic plan. At an operational level it should seek to reduce reliance on Government subvention in respect of its recurrent expenditure. This can be achieved by increasing revenue streams as well as by maximising the potential of its human and physical resources.

It will also not lose sight of its mission which is to ensure that the vast and rich heritage that Malta and Gozo have been endowed with is respected, safeguarded and appreciated by all.

**Joseph Said**

## HM Board of Directors (as at 31 December 2010)

Joseph Said, Chairman

Isabelle Vella, Deputy Chairperson

Evelyn Baluci

Anthony Bonanno

Leonard Callus (appointed 13 August 2010)

Norma Camilleri

John Cremona

Marika Grech

Bryan Magro (resigned 12 August 2010)

Martin Mercieca

## HM Management Team (as at 31 December 2010)

Frank Mifsud, Acting Chief Executive Officer & Board Secretary

### Senior Management

Kenneth Gambin, Chief Officer - Curatorial & Quality Assurance

### Managers and Senior Curators

Ruben Abela, Manager - Architecture, Stone & Objects Conservation

Claire Baluci, Manager - Diagnostic Science Laboratories

Ivan Barbara, Manager - Estate & Security

Ray Bondin, Manager - EU & International Affairs

Louis Borg, Manager - Operations

Olivianne Briffa, Manager - Finance

Alexander Debono, Senior Curator - Arts & Palaces

Suzannah Depasquale, Senior Curator - Phoenician, Roman & Medieval Sites

Thomas Dimech, Manager - Business Development

Reuben Grima, Senior Curator - Prehistoric Sites

Emmanuel Magro Conti, Senior Curator - Modern, Maritime & Military History

Nicoline Sagona, Manager - Gozo

Ninette Sammut, Manager - ICMCH & Education

Alan Sant, Manager - Human Resources

Joseph Schirò, Manager - Paintings, Books, Paper & Textiles Conservation

Martin Spiteri, Collections Manager

Godwin Vella, Senior Curator - Ethnography

Noel Zammit, Manager - IT & Knowledge Management

Pierre Bonello, Senior Executive - Exhibitions and Design

John Borg, Principal Curator - Natural History

Russell Muscat, Senior Executive - Communications & Events

Sharon Sultana, Principal Curator - National Museum of Archaeology



# Capital, Rehabilitation and Maintenance Works

## ERDF 032 – Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project

The Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project is part-financed by the EU's ERDF (85% EU funds; 15% national funds) under Operational Programme I – Cohesion Policy 2007-13: Investing in Competitiveness for a Better Quality of Life. The application for this project, under Priority Axis 2 – Promoting Sustainable Tourism and focus area 'Product Development; Niche market development and branding', was lodged in 2007 and was approved in principle in June 2008 (OPM/7031/2008/34), following which the Grant Agreement was signed on 5 May 2009.

The project involves the upgrading and conservation of two sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List as part of the 'Maltese Megalithic Temples', Ġgantija and Tarxien Temples, as well as SPC which are an outstanding example of Malta's catacombs. The duration of the project is from January 2008 to March 2013 with a value of €9,151,333 (including VAT).

During 2010 works focused mostly on data collection and documentation of various aspects of the sites so as to ensure informed decisions for the proposals regarding the conservation of the above-mentioned cultural assets. These studies, which are still underway, include:

- Limits of acceptable change for SPC and Tarxien Temples
- Architectural/topographic and 3D surveying of SPC
- A structural assessment of SPC and Ġgantija Temples
- Archaeological investigations
- Hydrological study at Tarxien Temples
- 3D survey of Tarxien Temples
- Environmental monitoring at SPC
- Installation of a weather station at Tarxien Temples

The visitor survey and data collection for the limits of acceptable change are practically complete and the final reports are being drawn-up. Similarly, the final report for the hydrological study at Tarxien Temples has been submitted and final revisions are taking place. The on-site data collection for the 3D survey of SPC and Tarxien Temples were completed. The architectural/topographic survey of SPC is underway, following which the structural assessment of the surveyed areas will be carried out. The structural assessment of Ġgantija Temples is also underway. A land survey of the Ggantija grounds was carried out by Randolph Camilleri Surveys Ltd in March. Meetings were held with Enemalta and Water Services Corporation (Gozo sections) regarding various issues in connection with the ERDF project. The President's declaration regarding the acquisition of land north of Ggantija was published in the Government Gazette of 29 April.

The equipment for environmental monitoring at SPC was also installed and recording has been ongoing for two quarters. The tender for the installation of a weather station at Tarxien Temples was awarded and related works will start in 2011. On the other hand, the geophysical survey of SPC was concluded in July 2010.

Archaeological investigations were carried out on all three sites. At Ġgantija, following the mechanical clearing of the site earmarked for the construction of the interpretation centre in January and February, a number of trial trenches were prepared in various areas of the park where a form of development shall be undertaken. The soil was transferred to WasteServ (site at il-Qortin t'Ghajn Damma in Xaghra) for landscaping purposes. A number of trees were also transplanted. Excavations are also being conducted at SPC, whereby the site earmarked for the construction of the interpretation centre and the foundation locations of the proposed information pods, children's pavilion and exit building, are currently being investigated. In Tarxien, the proposed locations of the shelter supports are also being archaeologically investigated.

Nonetheless, due to the specialised nature of most of the above-mentioned studies, the public procurement process for the engagement of suitable contractors/consultants on some of these studies had to be repeated at least twice, and in some cases such open tendering procedures still proved futile. In a particular case, the tender for the biological mapping of SPC and Tarxien Temples is still not awarded notwithstanding two open-call procedures and two negotiated procedures with prospective bidders due to technical non-compliance.

During 2010, the designs of the visitor-related facilities and infrastructure, to be constructed/installed as part of the project were developed further. This included the issuing of the relevant MEPA permits, including:

Application	Description	Decision date	Permit date
PA 5745/09	Proposed visitor centre, pathway and exit building to Ġgantija Heritage Park	2 November	7 December
PA 5810/09	Proposed visitor experience at SPC including an interpretation centre, exit building, children's pavilion, information pods and general landscaping works	2 November	30 November
PA 251/10	Protective shelter over prehistoric temple remains of Tarxien Temples	23 September	28 October

The relevant tenders are being finalised for publication and works are envisaged to commence in 2011. A further application was lodged for the restoration works to existing structures at SPC (PA3966/10) which has been recommended for approval and the permit is due to be issued in early 2011. Furthermore, a tender was issued for the construction of a lightweight walkway (and related civil works) at Tarxien Temples (CT3042/10).

Procedures are underway with the Government Property Division to transfer the ownership title of an alley abutting SPC and a garage within the boundaries of the site to HM. Furthermore, negotiations were also concluded with the Lands Department and the Joint Office to exchange a strip of land abutting the Tarxien Temples external boundary, with a number of alcoves in another area of the boundary wall site, so as to locate a foundation for the protective shelter to be constructed over the prehistoric remains further away from the temple structure in a potentially less archaeologically sensitive area and less visually intrusive on the remains.

A number of meetings were also held with representatives of the Water Services Corporation, in order to identify solutions so as to eliminate a foul-water main which passes through a number of catacombs at SPC. Through the cooperation with the Missionary Society of St Paul's, a main can be diverted through St Agatha School grounds, and therefore the relevant pipe-work in the catacombs can be removed. The Water Services Corporation is due to submit the relevant applications to MEPA so as to execute works in due course and not impact the progress of the project.

Being an ERDF part-funded project, the publicity element is an intrinsic aspect of the Grant Agreement. While adhering to the obligations included in the approved application, information regarding the project was disseminated through various media, including radio, television and the printed media.

## **Arts and Palaces Department**

### **The National Museum of Fine Arts**

Works on the refurbishment of main courtyard and the loggia temporary exhibition space has progressed satisfactorily. These include the cleaning of masonry including one internal façade and all loggia area including paint works carried out in the internal area of the loggia, the re-opening of blocked apertures, the removal of concrete roofing replaced by stone slabs (*xriek*), the replacement of all balustrades in lower loggia area and the purchase of hard stone tiles for upper loggia area. These were subsequently re-laid following installation of new water drainage system. Work related to the design, procurement and installation of a new electrical system, covering light fixtures, a picture hanging system and new exhibition boards was also concluded. The maintenance programme on all doors and apertures, including cleaning of brass components, refitting of original locks and re-painting to make these doors fully functional once again, was completed. The baptismal font originally belonging to the Methodist church, which functioned as a fountain, was transferred to the Inquisitor's Palace. It is envisaged that this project will be close to final completion during the first quarter of 2011.

The second phase of the Eco-Friendly museum project was completed in June. Old membrane was removed from the main staircase roof area and a traditional screed covering (*deffun*) installed instead. Prior to this, beams were inspected so as to ascertain their structural stability. Two ventilation chimneys were also constructed and the internal wall of one of the courtyards at Casa Scaglia has also been re-pointed and re-plastered as necessary, while the main façade of the museum was cleaned with water during the summer months.

Following investment in a state-of-the-art monitoring apparatus, the NMFA now has detailed records for temperature and humidity collated every two hours over a period of 12 months. This data will now be used within the decision making process determining necessary mitigatory measures to improve the microclimate of the building.

Substantial time was also dedicated for refurbishing the electrical system at the NMFA which involved various interventions and new installation together with the re-laying of new paving in the balcony. Various security gates were manufactured and installed in the new area earmarked for the reserve collection, and a new reception and research desk have been installed in November. Plans are also in-hand to employ two *mastri* on contract to carry out the necessary restoration works in the main staircase area starting from first quarter 2011.

### **Future Refurbishment Works**

Recent interest at institutional level in the refurbishment of the NMFA required proper project briefs, plans and presentations. The necessary documents were prepared, including a detailed overview of concept and rationale and a conceptual project brief that was forwarded for peer reviewing to specialists at the UCL and Victoria and Albert Museum, London. This process is still underway.

One of the teaching modules in the MA Architecture course offered by the University of Canterbury focused on the regeneration of historic buildings and their uses. The chosen case study for the module has been the NMFA. Students also spent a week in Malta working on site to come up with proposals on the effective use of the building, its extension into 8 Old Mint Street and its potential development as a node within the city's fabric.

Three full development permits covering works at or related to the museum have been granted, namely: PA 03880/09 – Reinstatement of existing roofs to existing museum – 8, Old Mint Street; PA 03882/09 – Change of use of site from domestic dwellings to museum exhibition space, including link to existing NMFA and restoration of facades. A request has been forwarded to the Valletta Local Council to prepare drawings and formally apply to MEPA for the extension of the pavement in front of the museum, replacement of existing kerb and installation of ground light fixtures. Permit has been granted (PA/01765/10) and works shall be taken in hand within the remit of the new pavement project.

### **The Palace**

The Pinto Clock Tower Conservation Project took-off following a lengthy tendering process. The metal components (the hemispherical bells, four *jaquemarts* and the related chiming mechanism) were dismantled and transferred to the relevant restoration workshops. The scaffolding was set up along the entire height of the facades of the tower. With regards to the masonry work, a considerable extent has been covered including the frontal and lateral facades and the decorative volutes that buttress the upper area of the tower. The conservation and restoration treatment of the clock mechanism is virtually completed and the automated winding system is underway. The conservation and restoration of the four crowning *jaquemarts* is also progressing but proving to be very

time consuming owing to past restorations that have considerably complicated the process of treatment.

## **Ethnography Department**

### **The Inquisitor's Palace**

Extensive works were undertaken within five of the eight extant Castellania vaults as part of 'The Alfred Mizzi Foundation' project. Besides enhancing the overall experience on offer via the upgrade of the reception area and ancillary visitor amenities, and the provision of an overall introductory interpretation provision, this project is of particular relevance in view of the extrapolation of a wealth of information on the early development of the extant fabric and due to the discovery of hitherto unknown architectural features datable to the late Middle Ages, thereby highlighting the Order's early makeshift works to adapt Birgu into a temporary capital. These works included the cautious stripping of all paint and plaster layers, the consolidation and stabilisation of the stonework, re-pointing and the installation of new electricity and communication networks. The existing tracks of wall trenches were retained in order to minimise the intervention on the sensitive historic fabric. Concurrently the reception area has been redesigned thoroughly to craft a more respectful and welcoming ambience, while the former restrooms' vault has been transformed into a duly equipped activity area to sustain the ever-growing programme of hands-on thematic education programme and related educational activities. This new facility is expected to absorb an adjoining and interlinking vault which is scheduled for an analogous conservation programme.

The extensive programme of works on the timber apertures progressed as planned. All apertures at ground and first level along Triq il-Mina l-Kbira were repaired and repainted.

### **Fort St Angelo**

Further works at Fort St Angelo were taken in hand during the period. The so-called Great Siege bell and supporting bell-tower on the cavalier have been subjected to extensive conservation works by our Conservation Section with the assistance of the Restoration Unit of the MRRA. The nearby guardroom on the cavalier, which was in danger of collapsing, was restored and had its timber beams and *xorok* roof replaced and covered with a new layer of *deffun*. The parapet wall on a ramp on the middle level built during the British period was also completely restored.

During summer archaeological investigations were carried out at the entrance to the fort; the approach ramp was cleared of several hundreds of tons of debris that were dumped during World War II, as a result of which the ditch outside the Main Gate was exposed. Archaeological investigations under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist appointed as a monitor by the SCH were equally undertaken to understand better the evolution of the process of the gate area.

Extensive alterations in the existing layout of the provision of services to Fort St Angelo were also carried out to accommodate emergency works necessitated by the dilapidated state of the entrance.

## **Old Prison**

Maintenance works included the renovation of two side doors overlooking the street, repairs to damaged masonry in one of the cells, and repairs to one of the cells door jambs. The lighting system was upgraded in view of late night opening of the site.

## **Folklore Museum**

Rehabilitation works conducted by the Gozo Area Office consisted of modifications in the drainage system to enhance flow. Old water pipes providing water supply to the museum were replaced by the Water Services Corporation, while old water pipes forming part of the internal water distribution system were replaced in-house. An earth electrode was also installed. The lighting system was upgraded to improve lighting of passageways, especially when the museum is open in late hours. A number of spot-lights were replaced with energy-savers. Anti-slip tape was fixed to the main stairs as a safety measure.

## **Ta' Kola Windmill**

Detailed estimates for labour and material works for the restoration and reconstruction of Ta' Kola Windmill were obtained in January. During this time the windmill tower was closed off to visitors as a safety measure. A status report on the damaged parts of external and internal structures and recommendations for reconstruction was prepared. Shoring works were carried out in the windmill tower in March, while the pointing of the exterior of the mill tower took place during the summer months using traditional *deffun* and hydraulic lime. A study visit to study windmill construction techniques in Marsala, Sicily, was organised in July. A visit to the Xarolla Windmill in Zurrieq was organised in October in order to study the mechanism and the newly-replaced antennae. The lengthy procurement process for the specific wood required for the restoration and reconstruction work has commenced. A formal report was submitted to MEPA with respect to ongoing development in close vicinity to the site.

## **Modern, Maritime and Military History Department**

### **Malta Maritime Museum**

Thick timber planks for the Intermediate Floor level flooring linking lift landing to the children's hall was delivered in February 2010. Said timber is Douglas Fair and is the same quality and dimensions of another timber floor in the building. Said timber needs to be planed and cut to size after natural drying process in same area where it is to be installed. A quantity of old never used proper gauged 'Imperial' treaded bolts of the correct length were acquired from the former Malta Shipyards for the said project, similar to what was used in the building thus retaining originality as much as possible.

In November 2009 cracks were noted around the ventilation shaft. However, following the necessary investigations, the cracks were attributed to building settlement and not to structural defects.

Another important and long overdue emergency restoration work commenced on the roof level in September 2009. One of the three surviving lanterns above the ventilation turrets was in imminent danger of collapse. The four meter high lantern was dismantled and several deteriorated stone components had to be replaced and other components cleaned

and conserved. Reconstructions have not yet been affected pending MEPA approval. Meanwhile a MEPA application has been submitted for the restoration of all turrets, clock tower and facades of the building. Meanwhile, the turrets eight wooden apertures (four 1.5m high louvers, two 3m windows and two 4.5m doors) were documented and the lantern's four louvers dismantled ready for renovation. It should be recorded that a fourth ventilation turret was destroyed during WWII when the engine room chimney stack collapsed on it and on various parts of the roof. This damage is still creating various problems which include rain water ingress, visible structural damage, lack of cohesive building appraisal and rendering areas/halls unusable for further extension of display.

The proposed Cartography and Communication Halls were completely cleared to render possible a series of tests on its defective ceilings. This roof is unique in Malta. A series of cast iron columns support a network of four 16m long built-up timber beams (five sections each) extending from the hall's walls. These 16m long beams in turn support a network of smaller beams which in turn support the masonry capping stones. This roof was restored in the early 1990s but components of three of the 16m beams have cracked causing great concern of collapse. Other smaller beams have also cracked and need replacement. This roof is the capping piece of a four level structure emerging from the Ground Floor, all floors supported on one another by means of cast iron columns and RSJs grid. The use of cast iron and RSJs was a first in Malta predating also the more popular Valletta Market. The columns themselves were cast in Malta. Scamp, the building's naval architect and engineer (responsible also for a future Dockyard project) purposely built the dock's (Dock No. 1) foundry and some workshops first to furnish said items for the bakery building.

As part of the ongoing routine initiatives inside the building, cleaning and clearing of obsolete materials/rubbish dumped/stored over the years continued. Space was thus made available in two adjoining rooms for a joint boat restoration and mechanical workshop.

Works were also taken in hand to patch up a concrete floor over St Angelo Hall kitchen. Several small and two large holes rendered the floor unusable. These holes linked machinery belts and pipe work from the first floor to the second floor. Wooden boards patched up the said holes in order to use the makeshift kitchen below.

### **The clock tower project**

One of the most prominent features of the museum's building is the clock tower. Since 2002 various studies have been undertaken and expert consultation sought for the best method to restore the clock mechanism and its three bells. The clock together with the bells predates the building (1839-45). The clock is signed Matthew Dutton of London 1810 and is considered as possibly a unique work by this family of precision instrument makers whose normal output was long case clocks and fob watches. Some components are also marked Suban Bros. Malta 1890, indicating some repairs. The original two quarter bells are also dated 1810 and the hour bell is dated 1790 and marked with the Broad Arrow of the War Department, being the oldest British made bell in Malta. All bells are by the Mears Foundry of London. The hour bell could have been recycled and pressed into new use in 1810.

Most probably, this clock together with its bells is the same turret clock which can be seen over the Sail Loft built above the Order's *Vaxxelli* Stores as seen in old prints dating between 1810 and the early 1840s such as those by Brocktorff. One has to point out that the clock tower adjoining the Bakery building was somewhat of a later addition not included in the first design. Probably the possible timber turret above the Sail Loft was dismantled and the clock and bells transferred to the new clock tower sometime around the mid 1840s. The clock was a precision instrument upon which ship chronometers were regulated. Its new positioning benefited also shipping in the Grand Harbour and officials in Valletta – actually serving as the official time piece of Malta.

The bells had to be removed in 2004 as a safety precaution since two of them were in an imminent state of collapse. The bells were repaired possibly after WWII in a very amateurish manner. All bells have missing hanging cannons and the crowns were drilled from which they were suspended. By time, the four iron bolts in each bell rusted and caused further damage to the crowns. The smallest quarter bell in fact fared worst. A quarter of its crown was cracked off. After years of deliberation the possibility of repairing the original bells in England was no longer favoured mainly because of the great amount of repair they needed, which did not make sense. It was thus thought best that replacement bells be found and that the three original bells be conserved and eventually exhibited inside the museum in the time keeping section of the proposed Navigation Hall.

In January, clock restorer Mr Stephen Zammit was entrusted with the clock mechanism overhaul which is still on going. Campanologist Mr Kenneth Cauchi was roped in as consultant on the project in March to source replacement bells. The cost for a set of three new bells was somewhat prohibitive. Fortunately, a British Trust whose aim is to find new homes for replaced rings or redundant church bells was contacted. It was decided that the replacement bells had to be from the same Mears foundry of London as the original bells had been. Three antique bells dating 1872 (x2) and another 1895 from a former ring of bells at St Mary's Church in Prettlewell, Essex were eventually purchased in July for a fraction of the price of new bells and were delivered to the museum later in the year. The bells will be installed inside the tower in 2011.

### **National War Museum**

Following the re-opening of the museum in April 2009, no major works were carried out save for light maintenance works. However the internal temperature was becoming increasingly unbearable for visitors during the summer months. It was evident that the air circulation system installed at the museum was not coping. A portable air-condition unit was installed at the curator's office, while another unit was installed in the temporary reception. Several fans were purchased for the halls. Discussions were held for the installation of a new system.

Official discussions with other institutions are underway with respect to the possible re-location and enlargement of the museum inside Fort St Elmo.

### **Palace Armoury**



Works commenced on the refurbishment of the office area and library. Work carried out includes the removal of various partitions, soffits and plastic covings, electrical and IT installations, carpentry and flooring. A relatively new fitted carpet and skirting from Malta shipbuilding was salvaged in late 2010 to be fitted in the office. The office of the curator has been temporarily shifted inside the conservation workshop.

## **National Museum of Archaeology Department**

Works on the refurbishment of the wrought iron balconies overlooking Republic Street, the timber apertures of the upper halls, and the restoration of the door of the main entrance at Republic Street were completed. Trench works in Melita Street have been finalised by Enemalta and work is progressing well to shift the power supply of the museum on to the substation. The waterproofing membrane at roof level and the clay down pipes have been replaced. The premises of 138 Melita Street were also refurbished.

Some alterations were carried out on the reception desk to render it more functional. Work on the Bronze Age and Phoenician Display has progressed significantly. It is planned that both halls should be inaugurated in 2011.

### **Gozo Museum of Archaeology**

A number of light fixtures were readjusted in several sections of the museum while new ones were installed in order to improve the display during late night openings of the museum. Other maintenance works conducted by the Gozo Area Office included the repainting of walls at ground floor level and the renovation of one of the exterior side doors.

## **Natural History Department**

### **National Museum of Natural History, Vilhena Palace**

The Restoration Unit within the MRRA initiated structural works on the bastions and outer walls of the Palace as part of the restoration of fortifications project financed by the ERDF. The north face has been cleaned and pointed and now works have shifted towards the north-western side of the bastion. At the same time, the installation of steel rods through the bastion and the bedrock is still ongoing. A number of steel grilles were fitted to the outside windows overlooking the ditch to increase security during the said works.

Three rooms on the upper floor of the museum were refurbished and will be used as workshops (photography, taxidermy etc.). The waterproofing membrane on the chapel was damaged during a storm and had to be replaced.

In collaboration with the Mdina Local Council, the Animal Welfare Promotion and Services, MEPA and ALE (Administrative Law Enforcement) the pigeon problem was tackled early in 2010. A similar exercise needs to be carried out again as a small flock has taken residence again in an inaccessible part of the palace. A general cleanup and disinfestation in one of the smaller courtyards was undertaken in summer.

A meeting was held with the Police regarding the possible transfer of a large hall and three small rooms located at the rear end of the Mdina Police Station (originally forming part of the museum). To date there has been no progress on the matter.

The old lecture hall has been converted into the palaeontological store holding all the Tertiary as well as most of the Quaternary specimens. In the meantime a new lecture hall was setup complete with internet connections, linoleum flooring and wall-fitted white screen.

### **Ghar Dalam**

A new walkway was installed in the cave in February, while preparatory work is underway for the design of a new lighting system in the cave. An area abutting the old exhibition hall was cleaned and covered with soil; it will be planted with oak trees. A sun-screen covering the 'excavation' pit was installed to facilitate its use by children during the education programme on site.

### **Gozo Nature Museum**

Maintenance works by the Gozo Are Office consisted mainly of pointing of stonework on all boundary walls, internal courtyards and part of the building façade. A number of local garigue and maquis species were planted in the museum's back-garden in March. The lighting system was upgraded in view of late night openings of the museum. This included the installation of new light sources in the terraces and back garden.

## **Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department**

### **European Agricultural Fund Regional Development Project**

A project proposal for the rehabilitation of Roman Baths and Christian Catacombs (REBACA) was submitted to the MRRA in 2009. This project seeks to address the requirements of Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths and Ta' Bistra Catacombs. It seeks to develop a holistic tourism product that highlights the unique cultural and natural heritage found within the two localities of Mgarr and Mosta, and includes the study, research, conservation and presentation of the mentioned two sites.

HM's application ranked first and was awarded a total of €4.8 million. The agreement was officially signed on 8 September and work commenced immediately on the development of tenders and the recruitment of the staff required by the project. The two outline applications for the said two sites were both approved by MEPA.

### **St Paul's Catacombs**

All conservation work on the existing boundary wall and fence related to PA 1480/08 were completed.

Works in connection with the ERDF project progressed well. The mechanical and subsequently manual removal of topsoil from the area earmarked for the building of the

visitor centre. Several tombs as well as an ash layer deposit were revealed. The weather station and environmental monitoring equipment were installed on site. Topographic surveying and the testing of LED lights is well underway.

Testing of a white substrate material found on site is currently underway to understand its biological and chemical composition for conservation purposes. Works also progressed on the acquisition of abutting properties required for the implementation of the project, and the architectural and infrastructural details of the project were defined further. This includes discussions with WSC and the Missionary College of St Paul for the rerouting of drainage system away from the catacombs. The devised plan should drastically reduce such problems for catacomb 1 while solving the issue with catacomb 24B. Part of the roof of catacomb 24 collapsed following heavy rainfall. Immediate emergency actions to secure the site ensued, while plans for integration into the new development were devised. These include accessibility measures for physically impaired individuals.

### **Ta' Bistra Catacombs**

Works progressed on site with the installation of sanitary fittings and the completion of final details to the electrical installation. The CULTEXCHANGE project underwent a regular audit on the project closure. Furthermore another application for INTERREG IV was developed with all Sicilian and Maltese partners and was submitted to the Palermo Managing Authority on 31 March.

### **Other Sites**

The MEPA application for the removal and replacement of the dangerous roof at **St Augustine's Catacomb** was approved and works will start in 2011. An INTERREG IV project application concerning the development and interpretation of the site was also submitted. The MEPA application for the removal and reinstatement of the roof of the **Domvs Romana** was approved at the end of the year. The tender was drafted and will be released in 2011. Works will include other general maintenance and the installation of other interpretative materials. Other works are being planned for **Tas-Silġ**. The complexity of the site and restrictions created by the trenches dug by the *Missione Archeologica Italiana* in close proximity to the boundary wall led to the decision to build the new boundary wall as per MEPA application, extending the existing site to the adjacent field. The tender will be published in 2011. Furthermore a second breach in the southern sector wall took place after a whirlwind passed through the site, taking down the full length of the boundary wall. A temporary fence was erected while a full development MEPA permit will is submitted for the permanent boundary fence.

## **Prehistoric Sites Department**

### **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra**

During the year under review, all infrastructural works and interpretation materials for the visitor centre were completed. This included trench works for the laying of a fibre-optic link between Hagar Qim, Mnajdra and the Visitor Centre, the tiling of the upper piazza, cess-pit works, the production and installation of interpretation panels, placing of artefacts in respective showcases and the completion of the introductory video by Studio 7. Other work required for the inauguration also included the reconstruction of the

approach road; the construction of new field gates, a steel structure for an antenna and gutter covers; the redirection of water supply from beneath the tarmac to the side and installation of water pipe to supply water to Mnajdra temples; the manufacture and installation of the turnstile structure at Hagar Qim; the installation of bollards; the landscaping of soft areas; traffic markings; the replacing of the steel gutter across the parking area with reconstruction of concrete foundations; planting of shrubs and trees around the new visitor centre, and the general refurbishment of staff room, security/tickets booths and rubble walls.

The protective shelters over Hagar Qim and Mnajdra performed well throughout the year. Some areas that were leaking were repaired at the contractor's expense.

### **Tarxien Temples**

Activities at Tarxien were mainly related to the Archaeological Heritage Conservation Project (ERDF 2007-13). A milestone for the project was the granting of the MEPA permit for the installation of the protective shelter over Tarxien on 23 September. The tender for construction of the same is being drafted.

A hydrological study of the site and its immediate surroundings was carried out in the first half of the year and a preliminary report was presented to the Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples which has since presented its feedback. The final report is currently under preparation, awaiting further information on the proposed design for the protective shelter.

A visitor survey, a health and safety assessment and an archaeological assessment of the Tarxien Temples were carried out as part of the Limits of Acceptable Change (LoAC) study. This study should be completed early in 2011.

Following the cancellation of the first tender issue for the procurement and installation of a new environmental monitoring system due to non-compliant bids, the tender was re-issued and successfully awarded in June. It now awaits contract signature by the Department of Contracts and the selected bidder. Installation of the monitoring system and commencement of pollution monitoring should take place in 2011.

The archaeological investigation of the proposed foundation points for the protective shelter commenced in summer. Of the five points identified for excavation within the existing site boundary, one trench was completed in Quarter 4 and three trenches are being excavated. The fifth point, located in a strip of land belonging to the neighbouring cemetery was cleared for excavation in November 2010 after an agreement was reached with the Curia for the exchange of this land with small niches in the boundary wall to the South of the site. The works are in delay since the contractor, EMDP Ltd, has provided only one full-time archaeologist and a part-timer who is allowed to assist with basic duties but not excavate. This may create delays on the rest of the project, including the installation of the walkway and the shelter.

The field behind the temple was cleared in preparation for the excavation of three more trenches. After the removal of part of the heavily disturbed top soil from all over the

field, the three points were excavated mechanically to reach a level close to archaeological deposits which will now be excavated manually.

Preparations for the three-dimensional documentation of the site were carried out. These included the removal of the old walkway, archaeological cleaning of the newly exposed paving and the uncovering of two features which have been buried since the 1920s/30s – a relief carving of a bull in the South Temple and a 1.5m deep pit in the Central Temple. Data collection using laser scanning and HDR 360 degree photography was then carried out by the contractor, DMT, in September. The data is now being processed off-site and the final results will be available in 2011.

The removal of the old walkway and archaeological investigations are also in preparation for the installation of a new walkway on site. A tender for the procurement of this element was published. The exposure of original paving and floor surfaces to visitor footfall and flooding due to heavy rains in October raised concerns for the safety of visitors on site and the preservation of original surfaces. This led to the installation of a temporary wooden walkway within the Temple and rubber matting on the external pathway. Gallery sheets with information on the site were produced to replace the integrated panels which had to be removed with the previous walkway.

Other activities complementary to the project are the construction of a boundary wall for the north field and the restoration of the rubble wall reconstructions built by Zammit within the Temple structure. A MEPA application was submitted in December for the boundary wall. A methodology for the dismantling and restoration of the rubble reconstructions was submitted to the Scientific Committee and is being finalised.

### **Hypogeum**

Environmental management: In June, the main roof over the visitor facilities and upper level was repainted in white roof compound, to help reduce heat absorption. Following the failure of the air-handling system and the decision to replace the plant, a tender for engineering consultancy services to develop concepts for an improved microclimate control system at the Hypogeum was published and evaluated. The contract was awarded to Engineering for Cultural Heritage, Rome, and works are expected to start in 2011.

EEA/Norwegian Funds: All deliverables relating to the 3D documentation of the Hypogeum were submitted and are pending final approval. Two tenders, one for consultancy services and one for the supply of environmental monitoring equipment were re-drafted into one tender with two lots. The tender was awarded in Quarter 3, but an objection was lodged by the unsuccessful bidder. The objection was rejected in favour of the original evaluation report in October. Work on both lots started in December.

### **Ggantija Temples**

Works on the Vodafone Ggantija Project continued throughout the year with the republication of the CCTV tender in January. Installation of the CCTV system commenced in July and was in function by September. With regards to the Interactive DVD-ROM (IDR), translations and voice-overs in six languages were vetted together with all IDR content which includes 360 degree photography and interactive games. A number of images were selected to accompany the voice-overs. The two kiosks were

installed onsite in December. The content is also linked to HM's webpage. An onsite meeting was held with the contractor responsible for the manufacture of the temple walkways in March to select material; the project is pending MEPA permit.

Routine maintenance works included periodic grass-cutting, ploughing and the removal of invasive vegetation. Ploughing of the olive grove and adjacent fields is now being done in-house following the purchase of a rotary plough. Other works consisted of the repainting of ticket booth and museum shop apertures. A set of binoculars was installed onsite in July.

### **Other works in Gozo**

Routine maintenance works included grass-cutting and ploughing in all other open sites, including the Xaghra Stone Circle, Ghar Ta' Ghejzu prehistoric remains and Il-Hagra ta' Sansuna. A breach in the boundary wall at Ghar ta' Ghejzu prehistoric remains was reported to MEPA, SCH and the Commissioner of Land.

The old premises in Żenqa Street in the Citadel had been restored a few years back but the external spaces were suffering considerable weathering and loss of mortar. Restoration of these premises was necessary in order to provide much-needed storage space. Rehabilitation of these premises consisted of pointing of walls in internal open spaces using traditional *deffun* and hydraulic lime, and re-levelling of a stretch of flagstones in the open terrace. The old water pipes providing water supply to the premises were replaced by the Water Services Corporation, while a new internal water distribution system was put in place. An application for the provision of an electrical supply was submitted to Enemalta; consequently a main switch and earth electrode were installed.

The Gozo Area Office started preliminary discussions with the Ministry for Gozo concerning the restoration of the Marsalforn Fougasse in view of a wider rehabilitation project of Marsalforn Bay. The same office offered assistance to the Ministry for Gozo in the proposed Xaghra Heritage Trail (EAFRD) and started discussions with the same Ministry regarding the expropriation of the Xaghra Stone Circle. MEPA consultation vis-à-vis revisions in the Gozo and Comino Local Plan are underway.

### **Move of HM Head Office from the Old University to Bighi**

Extensive work had to be carried out at Bighi to accommodate this move, which included the refurbishing of various rooms and halls covering most of three floors of the complex (including the refurbishment of doors and windows and the production of new apertures and partitions); the installation of new electrical and network system in all offices; general whitewashing of all areas; the refurbishing and cleaning of the water reservoirs, repairs to approach roads and terraces leading to the new main entrance, and the construction of metal gates for the new entrance. This also entailed the relocation of various departments and offices to clear the main corridor to accommodate head office personnel. The actual move to Bighi took place in December.

# Interpretation, Exhibitions and Events

## Arts and Palaces Department

### Exhibitions

The following exhibitions and events were co-ordinated, supported and/or curated by the NMFA, with the support of other departments.

**Alfred Chircop... and his Monoprints: 18 February – 7 March:** An exhibition of 28 monoprints by Alfred Chircop previously exhibited at Middlesea Insurance.

**Antonio Buhagiar Book Launch and Exhibition: 12 – 21 March:** The museum has been the venue of the official launch of a publication on the Maltese sculptor Antonio Buhagiar, entitled *Antonio Buhagiar 1906-1998 – Portrait of a Neglected Artist* written by Prof. Mario Buhagiar. Two preliminary and two to-scale drawings, one of which featured on the publication cover, have been presented to the National Collection. The donation subsequently went on display at the NMFA together with a selection of works by Emmanuele and Antonio Buhagiar from private collections. The two preliminary drawings have been transferred to the Inquisitor's Palace since these concern items related to works at the Vittoriosa Collegiate Parish Church besides their intrinsic ethnographic value.

**Camilleri Carbonaro Token exhibition: 27 March – 18 April:** In its drive to promote artistic activity by Maltese artists abroad, the NMFA hosted a token selection of works from the exhibition by Austin Camilleri and Paul Carbonaro. The exhibition held last year at the Münchner Künstlerhaus in Lenbachplatz, downtown Munich (Germany) was promoted by the Maltese German Embassy in Berlin and supported by the MCCA.

**The Busuttli Artists: A Legacy of Three Generations: Ministry for Gozo and the Banca Giuratale: 24 April – 31 May:** This exhibition was co-ordinated by a scientific committee jointly responsible for the selection of works (from both national and private collections) and its scientific content. The exhibition featured over 150 works most of which were never exhibited before. A 130-page catalogue including three scientific contributions by HM curatorial staff was also published on the occasion.

**The Nude: Patrick Dalli: 31 April – 7 June:** An exhibition of works by Patrick Dalli including a publication issued on the occasion.

**Journey – Umeko Okano: 13 June – 18 July:** An exhibition of Malta landscapes by a Japanese artist.

**Advanced Decomposition: Walter Vella: 14 September:** The event included an exhibition of art pieces in mixed media, photographs and a slideshow dealing with material decomposition and environmental degradation. The music performed on the night, an integral part of the exhibition, was original work called 'Decomposed' by Walter Vella who played saxophone, Dominic Galea, piano and Joe Micallef, drums.

**Postage Stamp Artwork: Emvin Cremona (1919-87): 24 September – 31 October:**

The exhibition explored Cremona's postage stamp artwork with a focus on abstraction in stamp design, the interpretation of the human figure and Cremona's interpretation of Malta's cultural landscapes. Some of the artworks were exhibited for the first time and an attractive leaflet was also produced for the occasion in collaboration with MaltaPost.

**Our Heritage - George Apap: 24 October – 28 November:** An exhibition of works featuring heritage sites including some of HM's most popular museums and sites.

The following exhibitions were organised by third parties but were supported by the museum:

**Servi Servorum Dei: 7 – 30 April:** Two items from the NMFA went on display at this exhibition held at the National Library of Malta on the occasion of the visit to Malta of Pope Benedict XIV.

**Edward Caruana Dingli: Portraits, Views and Folkloristic scenes: 8 May – 6 June 2010:** The NMFA co-ordinated the collation of all works for this exhibition. Replacements were also provided as requested by the various departments. Some 36 works from the National Collection went on display.

**Francesco Zahra: An intimate look at his small works (1710-73): 5 November – 5 December:** Four works from the permanent display of the museum went on show for this exhibition. A portrait of an ecclesiastic was superficially cleaned and had its frame changed.

**Nisġa ta' Lwien: Contemporary Art Exhibition at Kazin Banda San Filep – Haz-Zebbuġ: 6 – 13 December:** The NMFA supported this innovative project which had the scope and intent of bringing contemporary art closer to local communities. Featured artists include Matthew Kassar, Charlot Cassar, Mark Sagona, Mark Schembri, Fabio Borg, John Grima, Mario Sammut, Patrick Dalli, Paul Haber, Angelo Agius, Maryann Attard and Anthony Caruana.

**Gozo Area Office Exhibitions**

Three exhibitions at Gozo area office featured works from the museum collection. These were jointly organised and/or partly curated with Gozo Area Office including selection, packing and preparatory work for eventual transfer to Gozo.

**Willie Apap – Works from the National Collection: 14 May – 30 June:** A selection of works by Willie Apap including the Trial Drawings.

**Ukiyo-e Prints Exhibition: 9 August – 29 October:** A selection of prints from those featuring in an exhibition of the same held in December 2009 at the Contemporary Exhibitions Hall. The same catalogue was available in Gozo against a donation.

**From Birth to Childhood – A Christian Perspective: 19 November – 14 January:** An exhibition featuring works related to or featuring the Nativity from the permanent display of the museum.



## Events

The NMFA was responsible for the organisation of the following events. A sizeable group of volunteers is also on call and provides the necessary support when necessary throughout the year.

**Carnivart – The Fun of Colour: 13 February:** This innovative event included a mask-making activity for children and a tour of the collection for parents and visitors by Arlecchino. A large picture frame was purposely set up for parents and children to stand behind for photographic sessions. Refreshments were also served.

**Art&Wine@ South Street – 2010 Edition:** Four sessions were held during this year. On 24 February Dr Toni Sant from the University of Hull discussed contemporary art in Malta taking paintings from the National Collection as his starting point. Dr Sant was in the good company of popular media personality Charles Xuereb. Two other sessions were held on 14 April and 9 June. The first featured Mr Kenneth Zammit Tabona, Perit Conrad Buhagiar and Perit Claude Borg. Artist Rupert Cefai was in attendance throughout the session. The second featured Ms Lisa Gwen Baldacchino and Dr Raphael Vella. Held as part of DestinationArt 2010 open weekend, the fourth session featured Patrick Fenech and Nicholas De Piro, with an introduction by Curator Bernadine Scicluna. This event, held on 27 November, was intended as a commemoration in honour of the late curator for Modern and Contemporary Art, Dennis Vella. HM has invested in the proper equipment for the holding of these events, which were also supported by sponsors.

**Re-PAINTed: 7 June:** This event featured ten local artists painting on-site in the museum galleries. This session also included a live model striking the same pose as Mattia Preti's St Sebastian. This event, the first of its kind in a local museum, received positive feedback on the local press.

**Notte Bianca: 25 September:** The museum was open once again on the occasion of *Notte Bianca*. On the night, the Holland Baroque Society held 30-minute concerts in the Baroque Galleries. The concerts were well attended and over 2,000 persons visited the museum.

**Destination Art: 27-28 November:** The second edition of this yearly event enjoyed the support of the Friends of the NMFA Association, officially launched on 28 November. The History of Art Students Association (HOASA) was also invited to take part. Expenses for this event were covered by sponsors. The full programme of events included lectures, presentations and discussions, demonstrations of traditional printing techniques, guided tours of the permanent display, a demonstration of colour ink printing and colour printing techniques, a music concert celebrating the 3rd centenary from the birth of the Maltese painter Francesco Zahra, reading sessions for children, and a hands-on workshop and face painting session.

The NMFA also hosted the following events: a fashion photoshoot by photographer Valentina Lupo in the museum galleries, which was published in the January edition of

the *Malta Independent* magazine; a very well attended lecture by Dr Paul Williamson, Keeper – Sculpture Department, Victoria and Albert Museum, organised jointly with the History of Art Department, UOM on 14 October; the History of Art Students Association organised a special visit to the reserve collections of the museum; an on-site lecture for History of Art students was held at the HSBC Vincenzo Bonello Art Library in December. Six sessions for the popular children's programme *Żona* were also shot at the museum. Le Valentin's 'Judith and Holophernes' featured in the commemorative booklet of the Salzburg Opera Festival. A recent acquisition has featured on the special wine edition label for the Delicata Wine Festival. The work of art was chosen from a shortlist provided by the audiences of the Art&Wine @ South Street events.

### **Friends of the National Museum of Fine Arts**

This project had long been in the pipeline. The project was revamped this year, following discussions with a group of enthusiastic volunteers, and a statute was subsequently drafted and proposed for discussion. The aims and objectives of the Society are to

- bring together people who share an enthusiasm for the arts, their study, enjoyment and promotion.
- support the work and activities of the NMFA and assist in the promotion and safeguard of its collection, study, presentation and outreach.
- help and assist the NMFA in its mission to educate and foster the appreciation of Malta's artistic and historical heritage and its relevance locally and abroad with a particular focus on education institutions and the general public.
- cooperate with other local and foreign societies with similar interests in the arts.
- organise and co-ordinate outreach events in co-ordination with the NMFA.

The association is currently recruiting members and shall hopefully present a number of projects aimed at improving the image and accessibility of the museum.

## **Ethnography Department**

The Ethnography Department has organised and/or participated in the following initiatives.

### **Exhibitions**

30 April – 3 September: Festa in Miniature - an exhibition of clay miniature models by Paul Muscat representative of festa street decorations, a fireworks factory, processions and other aspects of the Maltese feast.

30 April – 3 September: Highlights of a Maltese Festa through the Lens of an internationally acclaimed anthropologist – a selection of unpublished photographs by anthropologist Jeremy Boissevain dating back from his fieldwork research documenting the Maltese feast in the 1960s.

8 October - 12 November, 3 December - 4 February 2011: An Insight into the Textile and Costume Collection Conservation Project – a representative sample of artefacts from the

costume collection, highlighting the main deliverables of the current project embarked in collaboration with the Conservation Division.

12 November – 3 December: Toys from the National Collection – an exhibition of old toys from the national collection as part of the Traditional Games Festival.

### **Events**

16, 17, 18, 22, 24, 25, 26 March: Thematic Learning Programme – The intangible Heritage of Holy Week and Easter in Malta – Besides viewing ‘Passio et Resurrectio’ – the Museum’s permanent exhibition illustrating the major concepts on the subject, participants followed an educational hands-on programme including the cooking of local *Figolla* culinary delight and the making of thematic bookmark in a purposely designed crafts session.

1 April: Extended opening hours at a special reduced price for the *Hamis ix-Xirka fid-Dawl tax-Xemgha fil-Birgu* event organised by the Birgu Local Council.

2 May: *Festival t’Arti u Artigjanat Marbuta mal-Armar tal-Festa* - For the first edition of the festival, which aims at promoting intangible heritage and identity, the Inquisitor’s Palace hosted several artists and artisans working on design, tailoring, and painting for textile decorations, carpentry and fibre work, marbling, sculpting, gilding, metalwork and statuary for the more monumental decorations, light festoons and *liedna*-making. The festival also included two temporary displays and thematic talks.

19 July – 3 September: 22 sessions for the ‘Opportunity and Inclusion’ which was the theme adopted by *Skolasajf* for 2010 – 721 students were encouraged to follow a special learning programme including a brief introduction on the Inquisitor’s Palace, a sharing session focusing on parochial festivities as means of participation, The thematic programme included crafts session centred on the *Anġlu tal-Pilandra* and the cooking of local *Biskuttini tar-Raħal*.

8-10 October: *Birgufest 2010* – The Inquisitor’s Palace extended its opening hours at a specially reduced price.

14 November: *Festival ta’ Logħob Tradizzjonali Malti fil-Birgu 2010* – the second edition of festival organised in collaboration with the Birgu Local Council and the Parliamentary Secretary for Consumers, Fair Competition, Local Councils and Public Dialogue. The festival aimed at engaging children and parents alike in the revival of traditional games in the streets of Birgu and at the Inquisitor’s Palace, which for the occasion was open at a reduced price.

6, 7, 9, 14, 15, 16, 18 December: Thematic Learning Programme: The intangible heritage of Christmas in Malta – Besides viewing ‘A Humble Birth a Worldwide Representation’ permanent exhibition illustrating the major concepts on the subject, 180 participants followed an educational hands-on programme including the cooking of local *Qagħaq tal-Għasel* Christmas culinary delight and the making of the traditional *Xrik* crib figurine following the traditional method in clay. The 18 December session was reserved for HM members and staff accompanied by their children.

### **Folklore Museum**

The Gozo Area Office coordinated a hands-on session of the ESF Wood CPR (Level I) course at the Folklore Museum in August. An activity sheet focusing on the same museum was prepared together with the Education Department.

### **Ta' Kola Windmill**

A plan was prepared for the interpretation upgrade of the ground floor. Items for the new display focusing on the bread-making process were selected for permanent display. Text for new interpretation panels for the workshop area has been prepared and artwork is underway. A 22" flat screen was installed at the base of the windmill tower in March, showing a looped power-point presentation focusing on the grinding of wheat. This was done as a mitigation measure since the mill tower was closed off to visitors. It has also proven as a useful interpretation tool for disabled persons who cannot access the upper levels of the windmill. The Gozo Area Office also coordinated a hands-on session of the ESF Wood CPR (Level I) course at Ta' Kola Windmill in August.

### **Gozo Area Office**

The Gozo Area Office collaborated with the Communications Dept in the provision of text and photographs for museum brochures of all six sites. The same office participated in the launch of the Cittadella Master Plan in June and collaborated with the Ministry for Gozo in part of its implementation.

A presentation re various careers within HM was delivered to secondary school and sixth form students at the Institute of Tourism Studies, Qala, as part of Careers Week organised yearly by the Gozo Tourism Association (April). The Gozo Area Office also participated in Youth Days 2010 (October).

A temporary exhibition featuring the ERDF Ggantija Design Contest submissions (winner and two honorary mentions) was organised jointly with the Xaghra Local Council between 23 and 28 April at the Xaghra Band Club during the festivities of *Jum ix-Xaghra*.

All four Citadel museums were opened free of charge from 7pm until midnight during **Lejlet Lapsi – Notte Gozitana** (14-15 May). The Folklore and Nature Museums were opened for the first time after hours. The Phoenician Cippus was brought over from the NMA and put on temporary display at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. A **Philatelic exhibition focusing on Maltese stamps featuring local flora and fauna** was set up at the Nature Museum in collaboration with the Gozo Philatelic Society. A food stall serving traditional coffee and sweets was set up at the Folklore Museum, together with an attraction of Gozo lace in the making. For children, two competitions were organised: one encouraged children to draw a favourite item from any of the four museums, and the other consisted of a quiz at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. These events attracted a total of 2360 visitors after hours.

**Willie Apap: Works from the National Collection** ran from 14 May till 30 June at the Gozo Area Exhibition Hall and was set up in conjunction with the *Notte Gozitana* activities.

**My favourite museum object: a collection of drawings by Gozo Primary School children** ran from 5 to 30 July at the Gozo Area Exhibition Hall and was put up following an art competition forming part of the *Notte Gozitana* activities. Winners from two categories (Years 3 and 4, and Years 5 and 6) were awarded, while runners-up were given a token prize.

**Pictures of the Floating World: Japanese Prints from the National Collection** was set up between the 6 August and the 29 October at Gozo Area Exhibition Hall. **From Birth to Childhood: a Christian Perspective** was inaugurated on 19 November and will run till 14 January 2011. The exhibition, held at the Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, put together a number of important works from the National Collection at the NMFA bearing the 'Virgin and Child' theme. The works consist of drawings, paintings and sculpture spanning almost four centuries, with the oldest work dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Gozo Area Office collaborated with curator Mario Cassar in **VISTA: The Victoria Contemporary Art Tour**, running from 4 till 28 November. 'Temporary Home' was an installation by Luke Azzopardi at the Gozo Nature Museum, while 'Humalkatraz' and 'F'Gagga' were two installations by Louis Spiteri and Anthea Saliba at the Old Prison respectively.

The Gozo Area Office also collaborated with the Victoria Local Council in **Twelve Steps** – an interactive experience involving a game-performance where the public was free to choose whether to actively take part or passively observe the characters in the various selected places around the Citadel. The event took place over a series of weekends from April to September.

Another event presented by the Victoria Local Council was **Beyond Walls** consisting of cultural and historic tours at various places in the Gozo Citadel including the Gozo Museum of Archaeology and the Old Prison (18-19 September).

The Gozo Area Office participated in **Festival Mediterranea 2010**, hosting Dr David Trump's lecture 'The Archaeologist Speaks' on pottery identification at the Gozo Area Office (1 November), and an animated tour of the Ggantija Temples 'Ggantija the story retold, the experience relived' (5 November).

Three open days were held during 2010. The first was held on 7 June when all four Cittadella sites were opened free of charge. The second was held at the Gozo Nature Museum on 26 September in conjunction with World Tourism Day. Ggantija Temples and Ta' Kola Windmill were opened free of charge on 12 December.

## **Modern, Maritime and Military History Department**

### **MMM**

The fourth edition of Life at Sea, attended by 800 persons, was held in January. The re-enactors engaged for the day brought the museum to life. The University of Malta International Maritime Law Institute Graduation was held in the museum in May. The

Museum participated in Birgu Fest held in October. The annual general meeting of the Friends of the MMM was held at the museum in December.

Various exhibitions were held in the New Foyer or at St Angelo Hall. One exhibition by Robert Strickland was also linked with various activities including a seminar on Admiral Horatio Nelson, whose bronze bust was donated to the museum by the artist and other sponsors. For details on other exhibitions and events see Appendix II below.

### **Palace Armoury**

The Armoury participated in the *Notte Magica* in January and in the *Notte Bianca* held in late September.

### **National War Museum**

The museum was visited in January by a group of eleven British MPs who were much delighted with the set-up and content of the display. In November the museum participated in HM's heritage trail on the Second World War.

## **National Museum of Archaeology Department**

The NMA hosted a number of exhibitions and events during the period under review. On 9 January the museum extended its opening hours with a reduced admission fee on the occasion of the *Città Magica*, organised by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism, the Environment and Culture and the MTA.

A public lecture by Dr Caroline Malone entitled 'Excavations at the Brochtorff Xaghra Circle' was held in the lecture room on 25 February. The Chinese exhibition 'The Art of Bamboo and Straw Weave' held in collaboration with the Chinese Cultural Centre in Malta, was inaugurated in the Grand Salon on 17 September, while an exhibition commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sir Temi Zammit's death was inaugurated in the lobby on 2 November.

The European Year for Combating Poverty was officially launched by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services during a half day seminar at the Grand Salon on 3 February, followed by a seminar on the same theme by the Ministry for Education on 13 May. The ICOMOS conference on 'The Historic City, a reference model for urban sustainable development policies' – part of the annual meeting of the CIVVIH in collaboration with ICOMOS Malta, HM, MTA and the Ministry of Finance, was held over four days in the Grand Salon from 7 to 10 April, while the *Kunsill Studenti Universitarji* awards night was held in the Grand Salon on 2 May.

The 'Django World Music Festival in Malta' was held in the Grand Salon on 9-11 December in aid of the Community Chets Fund under the distinguished patronage of the President of the Republic of Malta Dr George Abela, the Embassy of Belgium in Malta and the Belgian Presidency of the Council of the EU.

Notte Bianca: On 25 September during *Notte Bianca* the museum was open free of charge. Events included hands-on activities in the upper halls, and an exhibition with the latest acquisitions by HM at the Medieval Hall.

The second part of the Heritage Preservation Skills course organised by HM being held at the Upper Halls was completed and the third one started. Another course entitled Mediterranean Summer Programme, organised by Architecture Project, was also held in the Upper Halls of the museum between 12 July and 6 August.

The coordination of the filming of the children's programme *iz-Żona*, which focused on HM sites, has also been concluded and programmes were aired on TVM. The Mediterranean Bank has become the official patron of the museum.

### **Gozo Museum of Archaeology**

The upgrade of the permanent display continued with the installation of interpretation panels in the Bronze Age room. The museum featured in the *Skolasajf* programme implemented by the Gozo Area Office during July and August. Activities consisted of a classification game focusing on artefacts from the museum's display, and spanning the three main historical periods on display, a clay-modelling session where children were shown how to model own pottery shapes with different decoration or make replicas of archaeological artefacts. Word searches and crossword puzzles were also on offer.

## **Natural History Department**

### **The National Museum of Natural History**

The museum hosted the following events and exhibitions: On 12 February the Guido Lanfranco / Carmelo De Lucca donations exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon. Minister Dolores Cristina; 12 May saw the inauguration of Guido Bonett's photographic exhibition: *Walking in Africa*; the Lombard Bank Minerals donation exhibition and the Malta Customs Jewellery exhibition were inaugurated on 16 September. A Tourism and Biodiversity Festival was held in the front courtyard in collaboration with MTS on 19 September, while on 24 October the museum participated with two information panels in the Annual Lace Day event organised by *Bizzilla* – The Malta Lace Guild, at the Phoenicia Hotel. A Bat Night event was held on 19 November at the museum in collaboration with MEPA, and a Bat Appreciation Exhibition on the same theme was inaugurated on the same day and lasted until 6 December.

Another three temporary exhibitions from the museums' collections were set up in the museum: 'Worked pieces of Minerals from the Louis Mizzi Collection' ran from January to June, 'Fossil fish from the NMNH reference collections' ran from July to November, while 'Papier-mâché models of animals from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century' was inaugurated in December and will run until March 2011. The museum was open free of charge for an open day on 12 December. On this occasion an exhibition about local fossil fish entitled 'Scales in Stone' was set up (until 16 January 2011).

An audio-visual hall was set up in one of the main arches in the front courtyard: a 42” plasma TV screen was installed showing an 8 minute looping documentary highlighting the history of the NMNH and its collections.

BirdLife Malta continued to make use of the premises for their meetings and lectures. These included two bird ringers meetings, two lectures on the Granitic islands of the Seychelles and on French Guiana delivered respectively by Mr Joe Sultana and Mr Guido Bonett, the annual general meeting in September, a research committee meeting, and an evening seminar on The Science of Birdwatching held on 16 December.

During the course of this year the NMNH had good media coverage on local television and radio stations. The museum also featured in a number of press articles specifically or as part of the EU Garnija LIFE Project. A series of information boxes (*Mir-Rokna tal-Mużew Nazzjonali tal-Istorja Naturali*) were also featured on the Sunday newspaper *Illum*.

### **Ghar Dalam and Museum**

A plasma screen with information on the museum and the site was installed in the didactic hall of the museum. The site was open free of charge for an open day on 7 June and once again for World Tourism Day on 26 September, and hosted a group of children participating in the *Apprezza* campaign organised by MTA on 13 June. An event for young children entitled *Ballut għal Għar Dalam*, which included the planting of oak trees in a recently rehabilitated area of the site, a lecture on this indigenous tree and guided tours was held on 13 December.

### **Gozo Nature Museum**

The permanent display in the Marine section was given a revamp in February and March. The display now focuses on ecosystems present in local waters and places the marine organisms in the correct ecological context. New information panels were also provided for the moon rock display. A blow-up photo showing Gozitan coastal cliffs was installed in the Cliffs Habitat section. A number of activities organised by the Gozo Area Office were offered by this museum as part of the *Skolasajf* programme. These included a classification game of different geological materials, games focusing on birds, and other games aimed at smaller children. The museum was open free of charge for World Tourism Day on 26 September

### **Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department**

The annual Mass was held at the chapel of **San Pawl Milqi** on 10 February, followed by guided tours of the site on the occasion of the feast of St Paul. A very successful open day for the general public was organised on 2-3 October on the occasion of Farmers Festival in collaboration with the Burmarrad Local Council. A special opening and guided tours of **Ta’ Mintna Catacombs** was held on 1 October in collaboration with the Mqabba Local Council on the occasion of the festival *L-Imqabba mal-Medda taż-Żmien*.

### **Prehistoric Sites Department**



### **Ggantija Temples**

In view of the *Skolasajf* activities a new hands-on activity was introduced at the Ggantija Temples for the first time by the Gozo Area Office. This consisted of an archaeological dig whereby the area to be 'excavated' was split in real grids and children dug using 'real' tools like trowels and brushes. Finds included real animal bone, pieces of pottery and prehistoric statuette replicas to make the exercise even more fun and realistic. The activity took place in the olive grove adjacent to the temples. As an educational activity, the emphasis was on teamwork, with special interest in archaeology. Children were also asked to make a presentation of their group's finds.

### **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra**

Guided tours were held at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra on the occasion of the summer solstice on 20 and 21 June, while guided tours were held at Mnajdra for the equinox and winter solstice respectively, on 22 September and 20-22 December. On 16 May a group of children participating in the *Apprezza* campaign organised by MTA visited the site.

An open day for HM staff, including educational activities for children, was organised on 18 September, followed by an open day for HM members on 19 September and eventually a very successful open day for the general public on 2 October. Although the visitor centre opened its doors to visitors on 19 April, the protective shelters and the visitor centre project was officially inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi on 23 September.

Following the opening of the visitor centre to the public, introductory tours were held for tourist guides, tour operators and MTA staff. The educational programme developed together with the Education Department, was piloted with two primary schools. The development of further educational activities is envisaged for 2011. Interpretation panels and the text in the interactive touch-screen tour of the landscape have been translated into Italian, French and Spanish. The latter has also been translated into German. A survey on visitor feedback regarding the visitor centre was conducted by an intern with the Prehistoric Sites Department between July and November. Plans are underway for the necessary preparations to introduce three nature trails in the Hagar Qim heritage park.

The site also hosted a group of international comic artists attending a Malta conference on 18 October and a cultural tour organised by the MCCA on 5 December.

### **Ta' Haġrat and Skorba**

Interpretation panels for both Ta' Haġrat and Skorba were installed on site. Unsafe and sensitive areas within the sites were also cordoned off. Discussions were held with the Mgarr Local Council regarding the ticketing procedure for both sites. An agreement was reached with the Local Council and a new ticketing system was launched in September. The Council is responsible for selling tickets for both sites which are now open to the public on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9.00 till 12.30. HM once again participated in the Winter Tastes Festival, held in Mgarr in the first week of December. Additional tours were conducted at Ta' Haġrat during the event, and a stand with information on the site and current projects being conducted in sites within the Mgarr

locality was set up as part of the festival. A combined information leaflet for Ta' Hāgrat and Skorba has been prepared and will be printed in 2011.

Filming at the **Hypogeum** by Plum Pictures, UK, was carried out in February, in accordance with the conditions set out by HM. The feature should be aired as part of 'The Secret Mediterranean' series on the UK ITV channel in January 2011, following which the production company should be sending copies of the raw footage. On 27 June free admission was given to the **Tarxien Temples** for residents of Tarxien on the occasion of *Jum Hal Tarxien*, in collaboration with the Tarxien Local Council.

In collaboration with Education 22, interviews with curators were recorded for both radio and television on several of the prehistoric sites including Tarxien, the Hypogeum, Ta' Hāgrat and Skorba.

# Research, Conservation and Collections

## Collections Management & Libraries Department

### Digitisation of collections

The research and drafting out of a collections management manual, together with the preparatory work and pilot studies for an eventual implementation of a CMS were among the main tasks that were tackled through this year. Research in this respect concentrated on internationally endorsed standards used in cataloguing, on terminologies, glossaries and ontologies, covering all the spectrum of the exigencies of HM collections. These standards are necessary for the cataloguing of three overarching types of objects: publications (library); documentary sources (archives) and realia (museums). Standards also vary according to the purpose of intended use, such as cataloguing standards, thesauri and classifications. With precious experience obtained from the Smart Museum project on the art historical cataloguing part of the project, the general cataloguing aspects were amplified and snags were ironed out. The cataloguing module MUSES was thus extended, for the time, towards archaeology.

Ten students were employed for cataloguing purposes during the summer period. These students were grouped into three teams working on Fine Arts, Fototeka and Archaeological artefacts respectively. Collectively, they inputted 9790 records into Muses (three separate databases). These records however differ in the level of preparedness which the students found them and the final completeness of the records as described hereunder. Foreign intern students were also engaged in the project and were assigned work according to their skills so as to support the three teams as required.

**Fine Arts:** The students were asked to migrate records from the analogue inventory cards to Muses. This required understanding the data represented in the cards, inputting such data in Muses and subject index the records. Through such work, these records are readily available for the curator to endorse such data and include any research material that may be added to the records. The record also allows the Digitization Team to take digital images of the artefacts and attach them to these records. This team produced an output of 1190 records.

**Fototeka:** This team was asked to scan historic photographic prints from the NMA archive and create a record of such photographs at a level sufficient to make them publishable (Dublin Core Level Plus). For these records to be deemed complete there are only two further requirements: the inclusion of the photographer's name in such records (when known) and to create the location element when such physical storage of the photographic prints is identified. This team produced an output of 4068 records.

**Archaeology:** Considerable preparatory work was carried out prior the students' intake. This involved lists on MS Excel which were previously created by the NMA, digital images which were already available, and the migration of the MS Excel lists to CDWA format into Muses. The archaeology team found all this data available in Muses and they were required to amplify the records by adding some missing information elements and

editing the syntax of the records. These records are deemed as complete. The input for this team was 4532 records.

This pilot project was instrumental since it explored the various technical issues that are involved in HM's retrospective cataloguing project. It will also be useful when a training programme will be set so as to roll out the use of Muses throughout the agency.

### **Other**

The Acquisitions Office was integrated into the Collections Management office. Processes are being revamped to ensure proper registration and digital capturing of all records generated. Various meetings and site visits were organised in conjunction with curators to view and place offers for acquisitions, and eventually for their transportation to the respective museums.

The department is representing Malta in the European Commission initiative 'Mobility of Collections'. The workgroup meetings were concluded in May and the final report presented to the EU Commission in June. As part of this project, Malta formed part of the two working groups: Long Term Loans and Mobility of Professionals. Active participation in these working groups entailed generating calls to European museums and collecting and compiling their feedback re the Long Term Loans, while in the Mobility of Professionals entailed in participating in the task group for the production of the final report. Liaison was also made with the Ministry and the Maltese EU Commission Representative office (Brussels) regarding matters of questionnaires' compilation for the other working groups. This project is continuing through the training sessions being held under the Collections Mobility 2.0 initiative: the first session was held under the Spanish Presidency in June, whereas the second session will be held in Budapest in February 2011.

The office was assigned to draft an IPR policy and involved in the preparations for the application of the Freedom of Information Act within HM. The department is working on the Wood CPR (ESF funding) project through the procurement of publications – books and on-line journals, and is also assisting conservators working on HM's Fototeka, including providing accession numbers and guidance on physical identification of the glass plates. Another area of assistance includes preparation of possible methodologies to be employed in the cataloguing of the glass plates. The installation of industrial shelving for the Mrieħel warehouse, for which the tender had been issued and awarded in the previous year, was finalized and commissioned.

## **Arts and Palaces Department**

### **Reserve Collection**

Two spaces within the basement area used as reserve collection were given a good facelift. Both rooms were emptied of all their contents, thoroughly cleaned and works were taken back in again in good order. Some 150 unused frames were transferred to Casa Scaglia to be subsequently numbered and stored. A considerable number of glass panes, wooden boards, a number of catalogues concerning events in the 1990s and other

loose items were removed from site. Fragile and sensitive works have been packed in bubble-wrap. Particular works have been earmarked for extensive conservation works and put aside. Works of art that are of no curatorial relevance to the NMFA have been transferred to other museums, including the Inquisitor's Palace and the MMM. It is now envisaged that all works of art earmarked for ministries and government departments shall be brought together in one room.

The two rooms in the office area temporarily hosting the reserve collection have also been re-organised. Most of the paintings have been re-packed with a black and white image of the work attached on the bubble-wrap to facilitate searching when any works from these rooms need to be removed for exhibition or other purposes. Any items such as sculptures or reliefs which needed proper conservation packing due to past incorrect or lack of packing also received the required packing / boxing in an effort to put all items in these temporary reserve collection rooms in order.

### **Prints and Drawings Room Project**

The transfer of the prints and drawings from the mezzanine room as well as the two cupboards in the office area has also progressed well. Most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century works were reorganised in the plan-chests by artist, year or attribution and a considerable number of the drawings and prints by Michele Bellanti, the Brocktorff artists, Michele and Salvatore Busuttil, Giovanni Farrugia and other contemporary 19<sup>th</sup> century artists have received the necessary conservation/restoration treatment and mounted. Many of the maps and plans of the Maltese islands that were already part of the reserve collection have also been treated, mounted and organised according to the following themes/locations: Valletta / Harbour Area / Maltese Islands / Maltese Islands in Mediterranean Context (i.e. either showing North Africa and / or Sicily and / or South Italy). The mounting process also included a few 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century flatworks as well as 20<sup>th</sup> century drawings.

### **Acquisitions**

This year has been a record one as far as acquisitions are concerned. The NMFA was directly involved in acquisitions from the La Rosa and Borg Olivier auctions from which a number of lots acquired were later delivered to the NMFA, including two still lifes by Antonio Tibaldi. The museum also received a donation from the Gollcher Foundation consisting of a painting of the Holy Family.

In August HM was entrusted with the administration of Vote 5557 (Contemporary Art Fund). A Contemporary Art Acquisitions Committee was proposed to include experts in the field who are not committed in any way to the art market. These included Dr Joseph Paul Cassar (University of Baltimore, USA), Ms Katya Borg (MCAST) and Mr Fabrizio Mifsud Soler (MCCA). The committee, chaired by the Department's Senior Curator, proposed a shortlist for acquisitions most of which were eventually acquired. The task was concluded in December and a detailed report submitted.

### **Research**

The SmartMuseum Project was concluded in May. The NMFA now has an electronic database which can be used for research purposes. Inputting is underway and being

improved upon. In November this project was awarded an international prize, following favourable comments received from EU project reviewers.

The museum has provided assistance to numerous researchers at first degree, masters and doctorate levels. In October, the Senior Curator started reading for a PhD (part-time) at UCL. The chosen subject is directly related to the collection and its development throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century with particular reference to heritage policy and collections management.

### **Collaboration Agreement – NMFA and Museo Civico Taverna**

A three-year collaboration agreement between Museo Civico Taverna and the NMFA was signed in July and endorsed by HM's Board of Directors and Comune Civico di Taverna. This collaboration agreement covers academic and scientific collaboration between the two entities that shall prepare the way for Mattia Preti's 2013 commemorative celebrations. Scientific initiatives so far include the visit of the Senior Curator and two HM conservators in connection with non-invasive scientific investigations carried out on works by Mattia Preti in Taverna. The second phase shall be held in Malta in 2011 in collaboration with expertise from the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* of Florence.

### **INTERREG Project Proposal**

A project proposal including marketing and cross-promotion initiatives with key partners including the National Museum of Fine Arts, Palazzo Bellomo in Syracuse, Comune di Siracusa and Università di Catania was drafted and submitted for funding under a call for funding under the Italy-Malta Interreg call. The project was eventually short-listed but was not chosen for funding.

### **Presidential Palaces**

The department is responsible for carrying out periodical inventory checks of the movable art and cultural heritage collections housed at the three Presidential Palaces i.e. San Anton Palace, Verdala Palace and the President's Palace, Valletta.

Inventory checks initiated soon after the new presidency was assumed by Dr George Abela in April 2009, continued throughout 2010. Work is still in progress. Uninventoried artefacts/works of art identified during this inventory check amounted to over 600 (large and small items). Most of these items have now been inventoried.

The off-site and on-site work related to the inventory check of Verdala Palace was carried out in July and August. The first session was dedicated to checking the Verdala Palace inventory cards with the lists of the artefacts/works of art organised by room provided by the person responsible for the inventory of the Presidential Palaces. This preliminary work was in preparation for the on site inspection during which the artefacts/works of art were assessed against the inventory cards pertaining to the National Collection. This on site check also confirmed the exact location by room/hall of each artefact/work of art. Following this on site session, the existing inventory cards were updated and new cards were issued for those artefacts/works of art that had never been inventoried. Photographs of the latter works were also organised accordingly and attached to their inventory cards.

The inventory work of Verdala Palace in July and August was limited to the following rooms/areas. Ground Floor: Entrance Hall; Sitting Room; Drawing Room; Study; Main Banqueting/Dining Hall; Private/Small Dining Room; Pantry.

First Floor: Entrance Hall; Private Dining Room; Royalties Room. The other rooms on the first floor (Main Hall, West Bedroom, Southwest Bedroom, and South Bedroom) were not accessible owing to conservation/restoration works on their wooden soffits. An inventory check of these rooms will be carried out subsequently, when the conservation / restoration project is fully completed.

A thorough inventory check of the rooms and halls forming part of the House of Representatives at the Presidential Palace took place in July. Apart from updating the existing inventory cards, new ones were created and the related works of art were photographed accordingly. The inventory check was carried out in the following rooms/offices: Office of the Speaker; Clerk's Office; Large Committee Room; Small Committee Room; Entrance to Lobby; Lobby; Clerk's Assistants Office; HOR Corridor; Opposition Leader's Office (1); Opposition Leader's Office (2); Opposition Room (1); Opposition Room (2).

The Restoration of Throne Room Parquet Flooring at **The Palace** was necessary following the exhibition of paintings by Edward Caruana Dingli by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*. The method and materials that were to be applied were agreed upon, and periodical supervision was carried out to ensure that all treatment was being carried out as agreed. Work was concluded in September, and the end result was very successful. One of the three chandeliers in the Throne Room suffered some damage resulting in detachment of the lower part of the chandelier by the podium. In December the detached part was removed and transported to the Conservation Division at Bighi. It will be treated as required and eventually put back in place.

## **Ethnography Department**

The period under review experienced significant improvements in the management and conservation of the ethnographic collections. The reserve collection of bulky items at the Auberge de France was transferred to the Birgu Armoury which offers ample storage facilities. The title of ownership of the Auberge de France was transferred to the Birgu Local Council by the Government Property Division.

A number of significant acquisitions (please refer to Appendix I) were secured to enrich the existing collections and sustain the ongoing improvement of the respective ethnographic permanent displays at the Inquisitor's palace and at the Gozo Museums, while more modular steel shelving was procured as part of the reorganisation of the reserve collection. Another significant initiative consisted of a detailed and multi-disciplinary evaluation of the state of preservation of the respective collections at the Inquisitor's Palace by a group of post-graduate students from the UCL.

### **Folklore Museum**

As part of a wider pest control exercise, wooden implements in the carpentry room were cleaned and fumigated. Following completion of a similar pest control exercise in the winery room, the treading tub was set up. A parallel pest control exercise focusing on wooden implements was carried out in the mill room and adjacent rooms. Rodent control measures were also implemented. The costume room was closed temporarily as the exhibits were transferred to Bighi for conservation. Work was coordinated by the Gozo Area Office.

### **EU & International Projects Department**

Apart from responding to various requests for information about HM from international sources, a substantial part of the workload refers to the processing of payments concerning all EU-funded projects. All the different programmes have different systems that have to be adhered to.

The department also processes a large number of requests for internships. In most cases it requires the screening and signing of agreements to accept interns. 122 interns from twenty different nationalities were accepted during the period under review. The largest number, 44, came from Italy. They were placed in 16 different departments and museums, the largest majority with the Business Development Unit, the NMA, Operations and the NMFA.

### **Modern, Maritime and Military History Department**

#### **Malta Maritime Museum**

Various small embellishment works were carried out in the museum during the current year. These included the reorganisation of some of the displays in the Anadrian Hall which included cleaning of the minor engines on the Intermediate Level. One of the engines had to be re-painted. A proposal was also drafted for a future better arrangement of the Hall. The services of a person proficient in steam engines or at least pipe works is ever more evident for the better presentation of Anadrian's main engines. Eight information panels on different aspects of the maritime history of the Order of St John were prepared.

A small section dedicated to Maltese corsairs was installed. This subject has never before been properly discussed. The display consists of five items. An 18<sup>th</sup> century corsair box (a treasure chest/safe) used by Mediterranean corsairs was identified at NMA stores and duly transferred to the museum. At one time the typical paintwork on such chests was either removed or it simply fell off from the metal surface. However this artefact, still closed because of the lost keys, is an important relic first documented in the Museums Department collections in the 1930s and visible in pre-1973 photographs of the Palace Armoury. A portrait of a Maltese *Padrone* identified as a corsair was re-located from the Navigation section (transferred from NMFA reserve collection in 2000, restored and framed). An old Brigantine model was purchased in the current year to accompany a contemporary Scebecco model already in the museum's collections. Both types of



shipping were favoured by Maltese corsairs. A donation consisting of a late 18<sup>th</sup> century Rollo (sailors' engagement lists, skills, salaries) completes the new section.

An unidentified Maltese Captain with navigation tools was installed instead of the identified Maltese Corsair in the Navigation section. This portrait was purchased in 2001 from a local auction. Following restoration, it has for some years been in the reserve collection, displayed only in two temporary exhibitions.

Routine cleaning and maintenance of ship models and other artefacts on exhibition at the museum continued. The most significant was the restoration of several of the 18<sup>th</sup> century large Nautical School third rate models' running rigging. The restoration of the model of HMS Penelope, or better still HMS 'Pepperpot' as it is more lovingly referred to, was commenced. Ten miniature models from the McGarel Groves donation were also restored. It should be recalled that these die cast models, all to one scale circa 6cm in length are virtually wonders of detail in miniature. The donation, consisting of hundreds of such Royal Navy and Merchant models, was brought over by the donor from England over a couple of years, several sustaining damage in transit. The restoration work on the 18<sup>th</sup> century frigate model by Mr Joseph Muscat of Rabat came to a conclusion in November.

No work was carried out on MV Temptation now under cover at Boiler Workshop save clearing of unwanted items from it. Some works were carried out at said Boiler Workshop by Transport Malta to segregate an area for their own use, thus diminishing HM's storage space by around 300m<sup>2</sup>.

The MMM acquired a number of artefacts for its collection by donation, transfer and purchase. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I. Thousands of artefacts, documents and plans were also salvaged from the former Malta Shipyards. So far only a limited number (some of the most important) have been inventoried. Restoration commenced on a set of twelve Victorian Captains' chairs salvaged from various offices at the former Naval Dockyard (Malta Drydocks). Another set of six armchairs salvaged from same were transferred to the Inquisitor's Palace.

The former Malta Ship Building model maker reached pensionable age in March. He continued his research into his sphere of professional model making, i.e. Patrol Boats and Tug Boats. A good collection of original and copies of AFM former Patrol Boats was thus collected for the museum. Three scratch built models of the AFM Patrol Boats still need to be completed.

A Technician Shipwright commenced work at the museum in January. A much damaged Maltese passenger *dghajsa* was consolidated for eventual restoration. The museum's Dockyard *dghajsa*, a sole survivor of its type being just 17' long instead of the normal 21' with a different type of seating arrangement, was brought out from storage and cleaned for conservation work which commenced in September. Till the end of the year, the aft part of the craft was consolidated, necessitating the removal of various deteriorated components. The craft dates to at least the 1880s. Other work was left pending because of salvage work related to the former Shipyards.

The Technician Working Exhibits restored a large Thorneycroft marine engine. An Evinrude 1950s outboard still retaining its original spray paint and stickers was cleaned and work commenced on an Inboard engine, which could not be concluded since of salvage work related to the former Shipyards.

The former Shipyards Stores Manager was detailed with the MMM and undertook a revamp of the MMM's stores and rendered sterling service during the salvage works carried out at the former Malta Shipyards, which created several logistical problems.

Curatorial staff spent most of the year salvaging thousands of artefacts from the former shipyards (Cospicua, Senglea, Marsa, Manoel Island). Work is still on-going. Around 50,000 ship and establishment plans dating from at least 1870 have been added to the MMM collection. Noteworthy was the salvage of the Dockyard Apprentices Reference Library. Apart from 'museum' relevant items, several items were also transferred/donated which could be still used, such as light fittings and office furniture. Various heavy plant and equipment were also availed of.

For three months between March and June, Six German students from *Bekore* and *Waltz* Institutes were assigned to the museum and assisted in several works. It should be recorded that in August the first curator of the museum, Mr Antonio Espinosa Rodriguez, reached pension age. The museum commenced its operations under his guidance behind closed doors in 1988 and eventually opened its doors to the public in 1992. He remained Curator of the museum until 2003.

Contact was established last year with the AFM Maritime Squadron re the donation of a very old crane used by said squadron, now made obsolete. The restored crane was officially presented to HM Chairman by outgoing Brigadier Carmel Vassallo in January and brought over to the museum in May.

Further contacts were made with Prof. Raymond Agius of Vittoriosa, residing in the UK. Prof. Agius is a direct relative of Guzeppi Ruggier (known in the UK as Joe Rogers), a Maltese maritime hero. On 26 October 1859, the steamer *Royal Charter* got engulfed in a heavy storm near the coast of Anglesey in Wales and subsequently wrecked and was smashed by the heavy sea. Ruggier, a sailor on board swam to the coast with a rope so that a boson's chair could be tied to it to ferry passengers to the shore. He swam again to the stricken ship and thus managed to save twenty five lives. The ship unfortunately broke up and sank taking with her to the bottom of the sea 459 passengers and crew. Prof. Agius donated to MMM a timber fragment from the ship and a spoon fragment from the official excavations held by Welsh authorities on the ship remains in a special seminar held at the MMM in August.

Contacts were made with Marsa Regatta Club for a possible donation of an example of their racing boats. Eventually after two visits in February and March, a *Kajjik* was donated in pristine condition.

Through a contact established by a HM Board member, the Senior Curator inspected a massive collection gathered over a number of years by a leading collector who died the previous year. Most of the collection was ethnographic in nature, but several items were

of maritime and military interest. The maritime collection was donated to the MMM while the Ethnography Department purchased other items for the national collection.

With the support of Prof Fra Robert Dauber, Knight Grand Cross Order of St John, who is the foremost present Order of St John naval historian, a model of the Carrack *Sant' Anna* is to be constructed anew by HM Keeper of Models. This was established in October during Fra Robert's visit. Plans after the Vermajen tapestry cartoons of the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century depicting the said Order's carrack made by the University of Vienna with a manipulator programme are to be handed over to the museum in March 2011.

In October the curator was invited to attend the launching of the Historical Re-Enactors Joint Venture at *Auberge d'Italie* because of the museum's commitment towards historical re-enactments.

The senior curator and curator attended the Association of Mediterranean Maritime Museums Annual Conference which was held in Palamos Spain in October, and jointly presented a paper titled 'Collecting for tomorrow'. They also attended the ICOMOM conference held in Valletta in October, and were interviewed on various occasions with reference to various aspects of maritime history.

The Curator MMM, again on his own initiative visited Portsmouth Historic Dockyards in late October and had another meeting with the Mary Rose Curator. Visit originally stemmed from queries re Maltese sailors in service with the RN between late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The Senior Curator presented a paper titled 'The Conti, Borda & Magro Families of Sailors' in the annual seminar of the Friends of the MMM in June held at MMM. A Level students from the Gian Frangisk Abela Junior College visited the museum in December and were lectured at the MMM after a tour of the museum as part of their studies.

### **Palace Armoury**

Several metal and leather artefacts were produced for the suites of armour display thanks to the Gasan and Mamo sponsorship. Four showcases were also revamped since of new display props and artefacts thanks to this sponsorship.

During the current year, all central and main side showcases were cleaned inside out and items checked and cleaned. Seven showcases were also re-organized and nine items displayed anew. The grand master's carriage was also cleaned once again.

A large quantity of painted armorial shields were cleaned, packed and transported back to the PA from the NMFA. Said shield, part of the PA collection were transferred to NMFA in the mid 1970s after the PA was shifted to the ground floor stables inside the Grand Master's Palace.

During the current year, four suits of half armour were restored and subsequently replaced the four suites of armour at the OPM at Castile. New gorgets had to be made as the originals. Each of the restored four suites was meticulously researched and proper components grouped together according to style and size. Eight other similar suites are

being compiled to be eventually restored at Bighi next year. No less than sixteen infantry and cavalry half suites of armour are being properly grouped for eventual restoration and display at the PA apart from those intended for Castile and San Anton.

Michael Stroud, former curator of the Palace Armoury continued with his support as consultant related to the Gasan Mamo Sponsorship.

Preliminary contacts to re-establish working relationships with ICOMAM and Leeds Royal Armouries were made during the current year. The senior curator established links with the Keepers of Fort Anne in Canada since following research on bronze cannon it was found that a possible Maltese Order's period cannon is exhibited inside this fort. The cannon, a mid 18<sup>th</sup> century French bronze piece, has the characteristic Order's inventory numbers on its *cascabell*. Further research was carried out on Grand Master's La Valette Comb Morion, now at Palazzo Venezia in Rome. Further contacts were made to acquire documentation on said item which was forwarded but still no tangible answers as regards provenance pre mid 19<sup>th</sup> century was found.

In October the curator was invited to attend the launching of the Historical Re-Enactors Joint Venture at the Auberge d'Italie because of the museum's commitment towards historical re-enactments.

The Palace Armoury acquired a small number of artefacts for its collection by purchase. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I below. A preliminary plan was also formulated for the eventual return of the Palace Armoury to its original hall inside the Palace.

### **National War Museum**

Research into various aspects of the collection was continued. The dummy of the museum's guide book was concluded. Research was conducted at the Chief Draughtsman's Office at Floriana to assess the archive re material having a connection with WWII. Up to now, the highlight of the archive is the staggering amount of Air Raid Shelter plans found.

In October the curator was invited to attend the launching of the Historical Re-Enactors Joint Venture at Auberge d'Italie since of the museum's commitment towards historical re-enactments.

A meeting with Valletta's mayor was held in November regarding the possible installation and sounding of a WWII siren on important WWII-related anniversaries. The mayor welcomed and supported the idea. The siren is to be restored next year.

Two aircraft models and a diorama recently donated and all included in displays were restored. The NWM Reserve Collection at the MMM is being assessed and labelled. The museum acquired a considerable number of artefacts for its collection by donation, transfer, and purchase. A full list of acquisitions can be found in Appendix I.

## **National Museum of Archaeology Department**

The inventory of the reserve collection has continued. The work includes documentation, packing in acid free paper and repacking in plastic crates. A number of artefacts from the collection were chosen to form part of the permanent exhibition at Haġar Qim. These have been documented and conserved and are displayed at the Haġar Qim visitor centre.

The 4m long Roman anchor stock that was housed on the upper floor was transferred to the MMM in March to form part of the permanent exhibition. A corsair's strong box was also transferred to the MMM. Archival material has also been transferred to the MMM since its content was purely maritime or military. Most of the books and archival material previously in 138 Melita Str, including photographs, have been transferred to the 'new' location of the library in the adjoining ex SCH premises following help of volunteers from HSBC.

The inventory of 247 artefacts from the reserve collection was concluded and all artefacts have been transferred to the respective relevant HM museums. A limestone block with various graffiti, including one of an old man said to be St Paul from San Pawl Milqi excavations (Inv No. 23001) was lent for an exhibition entitled *San Pawl f'Malta u l-Formazzjoni ta' Identità ta' Nazżjon* organised by the OPM at the Auberge de Castille from 8 to 19 April. A number of artefacts from the Paola area were loaned to the Paola parish church for the exhibition *5000 Sena ta' Storja - 100 Sena Parroċċa* held at the church of St Ubaldeska, Paola, from 5 to 21 February. An Arab signet ring (Inv No. 23000) was loaned to the Central Bank of Malta for an exhibition which was held from 10 November till 31 January 2011.

Foreign interns continued documenting archival material found in the library, cataloguing and documenting the archaeological collection, and scanning the old photographic archive. The museum also hosted a considerable number of researchers studying parts of the collection, including the Bronze Age pottery collection, Roman lamps, artefacts from Tas-Silġ, stone implements, and parts of the numismatic collection.

### **Gozo Museum of Archaeology**

Archaeological artefacts in the reserve collection of the museum were provided with laminated labels to ensure their preservation and prevent loss of important information. The inventory of the permanent display was revised and updated. This was made possible through the engagement of an intern (graduate student from the University of Milan), and included the photographic documentation of all prehistoric artefacts on display. A contribution focusing on the Xagħra Stone Circle stick figurines was submitted to ICOM in view of the publication *Reflecting Europe in its Museum Objects* in March.

## **Natural History Department**

A large collection of local and foreign shells was donated by Mr Glanville of Paola. A number of old press cuttings on the capture of White Pelicans from Malta in the 1950s were presented by Mr J. Sammut of Naxxar. A collection of minerals was donated by Lombard Bank. A total of 123 Red-palm Weevils prepared in glass-topped box were

presented by Dr David Mifsud. Please refer to Appendix I for more details. Mr Michael Gatt of Rabat presented a copy of his paper 'A New Coral-Associated Decapod Assemblage from the Upper Miocene (Messinian) Upper Coralline Limestone of Malta (Central Mediterranean)' published in the journal *Palaeontology* Vol.53 (6): 1315-48 (2010).

The transfer of confiscated jewellery from the Enforcement Division (Malta Customs) to the NMNH took place on 19 February. The transfer included the following 83 items: seven pieces of stone/coral bracelets with gold, six pieces of stone/coral necklaces with gold, one stone/coral and gold spring bracelet, eighteen stone/coral rings with gold, eight stone/coral rings with gold, eleven pairs of stone earrings with gold (and one loose earring), ten pairs of coral/stone earrings with gold, six pairs of gold earrings with corals and stone, seven coral bracelets with gold, one gold and coral bracelet, and seven coral necklaces with gold.

Stuffed birds acquired from the Late Mr Victor Vella-Muscat of Rabat, Gozo:

Great Cormorant  
Wryneck  
Black Wheatear  
Desert Wheatear  
Alpine Accentor  
Duncock  
Spectacled Warbler x 2  
Subalpine Warbler  
Common Whitethroat  
Red-breasted Flycatcher  
Spanish Sparrow x 9  
Tree Sparrow  
Crossbill  
Linnet x 6  
Chaffinch x 2  
Brambling x 2  
Greenfinch x 2  
Goldfinch x 3  
Siskin x 2  
Serin x 2  
Hawfinch x 2  
Trumpeter Finch x 2  
Scarlet Rosefinch x 2  
Ortolan Bunting  
Little Bunting  
Snow Bunting x 2  
Rustic Bunting  
Reed Bunting x 3  
Cirl Bunting x 2  
Corn Bunting x 2

**Birds from BirdLife Malta**

### **1. Dead birds delivered by BirdLife Malta on 8 October 2010**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Cory's Shearwater	22.09.2010	Ramla Bay Resort
Little Bittern	03.09.2010	Marsa
Night Heron	01.10.2010	Zejtun
Night Heron	11.09.2010	Hal-Far
Purple Heron	10.09.2010	Gozo
Marsh Harrier (F)	No Data	
Honey Buzzard	09.08.2010	Freeport (Birzebbuga)
Hoeny Buzzard	29.09.2010	Mellieha
Common Kestrel	10.09.2010	Delimara
Green Sandpiper	13.09.2010	Fawware
Yellow-legged Gull	30.08.2010	Bugibba (ringed GG1817)
Barn Owl	23.07.2010	Kalkara (Closed-ringed)
Turtle Dove	10.09.2010	Targa Gap, Mosta
Roller	11.09.2010	Girgenti (Laferla Cross)
Common Swift	12.07.2010	Tigne Pt. Sliema
Spanish Sparrow	07.04.2010	Attard
Serin	No Data	
Zebra Finch	30.18.2010	Siggiewi

### **2. Dead birds delivered by BirdLife Malta on 26 October 2010**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
Song Thrush	25/10/2010	Ta'Qali
Song Thrush	25/10/2010	Kalkara
Starling	25/10/2010	Iklin
Starling	25/10/2010	Attard
Common Kestrel	12/10/2010	Tas-Silg, Marsaxlokk
Common Kestrel	12/10/2010	Bahrija
Common Kestrel	13/10/2010	?
Common Kestrel	14/10/2010	Zurrieq
Common Kestrel	17/10/2010	?
Common Kestrel (ringed)	21/10/2010	Hal Far
Common Kestrel	25/10/2010	Mtarfa
Blue Rock Thrush	14/10/2010	Wied Dalam, Birzebbuga
Honey Buzzard	16/10/2010	Gozo
Barn Swallow	18/10/2010	Chadwick Lakes, Mtarfa
Yellow legged gull	19/10/2010	Qawra
Short-eared Owl	21/10/2010	Qrendi
Northern Gannet	25/10/2010	off shore Salina

### **Confiscated birds by Malta Law Courts and transferred to NMNH by MEPA**

#### **Lot 1: 13 May**

Little Grebe  
Black-necked Grebe x 2  
Great Crested Grebe x 2  
Snow Goose x 2  
American Wigeon

Red-crested Pochard  
Ferruginous Duck x 2  
Greater Scaup  
Long-tailed Duck 1  
Common Goldeneye  
Bufflehead  
Hooded Merganser  
Golden Eagle  
Spotted Eagle  
Steppe Eagle  
Lesser Spotted Eagle  
Booted Eagle  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Montagu's Harrier x 3  
Long-legged Buzzard 1  
Red-footed Falcon  
Eleonora's Falcon  
Houbara's Bustard  
Chukar  
Cream Coloured Courser  
Spur-winged Plover  
Dunlin  
Little Stint x 2  
Pomarine Skua x 2  
Slender-billed Gull  
Yellow-legged Gull  
Lesser Black-backed Gull  
Common Tern  
Sandwich Tern x 2  
Black Tern x 2  
Stock Dove  
Laughing Dove  
Tawny Owl  
Eagle Owl  
Hoopoe  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Ring Ouzel  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Hooded Crow  
Golden Oriole x 2  
Crossbill

**Lot 2: 28 June**

Black Kite  
Grey Hornbill  
Black-shouldered Kite  
Lanner Falcon x 4



Little Tern x 15  
Whiskered Tern x 8  
Little Owl x 2  
Barn Owl x 7  
Long-eared Owl x 2  
White-breasted Kingfisher x 20  
Lesser Pied Kingfisher x 2  
Blue-cheeked Bee-eater x 9  
Little Green Bee-eater  
Common Bulbul

### **Research and Collections**

Digitisation of collections: A digital photo-library hosting all the specimens present at the NMNH and Għar Dalam is being compiled; the ornithological collection is already available on the internet. The De Lucca Herbarium was also catalogued and photographed and will also be available on the internet in 2011. Work by the three volunteers on the conchological collection continued and the collection is now being systematically arranged in ten new purposely purchased museum storage cabinets and cross-referenced to the database.

The annual helicopter visit to Filfla Plateau was carried out in collaboration with BirdLife Malta on 18 May. The main aim of these visits is to monitor the breeding population of the Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* nesting on the top of the island. A total of 105 chicks (two less than in 2009) were ringed with Incoloy numbered rings. Notes on other aspects of flora and fauna were taken as part of this ongoing monitoring.

The Principal Curator was once again invited by the University of Palermo to participate in a series of research programs between the two entities from 4 to 7 February. A visit to the island of Lampedusa was carried out as part of a research project on the ecological affinities between Malta and Lampedusa (prelude to the REMASI Project). The Principal Curator was also invited to participate in the Small Islands Project conference held in the city of Marseille (23-27 May), participated in an entomological survey of Cyprus (8-14 June), and participated for the third time in a mission to Libya in collaboration with EGA (Libya), RAC/SPA (Tunis), ISPRA (Italy), TDV (France) to monitor the breeding population of Lesser Crested Terns (1-8 August).

A newly discovered quaternary site at St Julians was investigated by the Principal Curator on the invitation from the SCH. In December, following the confiscation of a number of Tertiary fossils and Quaternary bones by the Malta Police, the Principal Curator was also appointed as Court Expert to examine the remains and to prepare a report on the findings.

Throughout the year, several individuals enquired on various topics related to natural history from authentication to identification of specimens. Among others, Dr Alan Deidun and Ms Francesca Balzan examined sections of the coral collection; Dr George Zammit Maempel requested information about a number of cetacean bones present at the NMNH, while a number of visits to bat roosting sites were carried out in October with Dr David A. Dodds from Scotland.

For the sixth consecutive year a series of lectures were delivered to prospective tourist guides at the ITS, the title of the module being 'Eco-Tourism and Malta's Natural Environment'. A total of 13 lectures were presented ranging from Maltese Geology and Palaeontology to invertebrates and vertebrates, floral aspects and human influence. Three site visits (Ta'Cenc, Haġar Qim and Mellieħa) were also carried out as part of the said course. Moreover, a presentation on the ecological importance of Buskett was delivered to the Paola Secondary Boys during a live-in weekend at Buskett, while human influence on the natural environment was the theme of a presentation delivered at the FIS (Valletta) to a group of students from Bournemouth University.

### **Publications**

The following articles were published during the year under review.

Borg, J. J. First record of the Pygmy Cormorant *Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*, for the Maltese Islands. *Il-Merill* 32: 44.

Borg, J. J. First record of the Blue-Winged Teal *Anas discors* in the Maltese Islands. *Il-Merill* 32: 42.

Borg, J.J. Re-assessment of the Rock Sparrow *Petronia petronia* record of 1957. *il-Merill* 32: 38-39.

Borg, J. J. Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata tyrrhenica* breeding in Malta. *Il-Merill* 32: 31-32.

Borg, J. J. & D. Cachia. First records of the Striped Crake *Porzana marginalis* in the Maltese Islands. *Il-Merill* 32: 45.

Borg, J. J., H. Raine & A. Raine. Records in Malta of European Storm-petrels *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* during the breeding season away from known breeding sites. *Il-Merill* 32: 11-14

Borg, J. J, A. Raine, H. Raine & N. Barbara. The EU Life funded Yelkouan Shearwater Project – Layman's Report. Heritage Malta/BirdLife Malta xxpp.

Borg, J. J., Raine, H., Raine, A.F. & Barbara, N. Protecting Malta's wind chaser: The EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project Report. Malta: EU LIFE Yelkouan Shearwater Project. 30pp.

Borg, J. J. & J. Sultana. Yellow-legged Gull *Larus michahellis* preying on Maltese Wall Lizards *Podarcis filfolensis filfolensis* on Filfla Island. *Il-Merill* 32: 34.

Borg, J. J. & J. Sultana. Extended Laying Period by the European Storm-petrel *Hydrobates pelagicus melitensis* on Filfla Island. *Il-Merill* 32: 15-16.

A. Raine, H. Raine & J. J. Borg. Rafting behaviour of Yelkouan Shearwater *Puffinus yelkouan* breeding at Rdum tal-Madonna, Malta. *Il-Merill* 32: 26-30.

Steinmann, R., A. Strasser, A. Mulrenin, A. Tyler, S. Pieterse, I. Teage, M.De Giovanni, J. J. Borg, & N. Zammit. Developing Web-based Search Portals on Birds for Different Target Groups. in Nimis, P.L. & R. Vignes Lebbe (eds). Tools for Identifying Biodiversity: Progress and Problems: MNHN Paris, pp. 25-30.

A new set of stamps was issued by Malta Post highlighting 2010 Year of Biodiversity. Four local species, Storm-petrel, Filfla Lizard, Fresh Water Crab and Maltese Pyramidal Orchid were chosen by the Principal Curator NMNH. Accompanying text was also prepared by the PC.

### **EU projects**

**STERNA** (Semantic Web-based Thematic European Reference Network Application): The ornithological collections of the NMNH are the first from the national collections to have been made available on the STERNA and HM's internet site. As part of this project the Principal Curator attended a workshop held on the Island of Samos (Greece) on 12-14 July, and attended meeting and delivered a paper at the congress 'Tools for identifying biodiversity: progress and problems' held at the National Museum of Natural History (Paris) on 20-22 September. The project was supported and partly funded by the eContentplus programme of the European Commission and ended in November.

### **EU LIFE Garnija project**

This was the fourth and final year of the EU LIFE Garnija project. The techniques used in the previous two years were again utilised to record the bird's whereabouts and behaviour at sea; these included geolocators, data-loggers and satellite tracking devices (PTTs). This project is co-financed by the EU and is managed by BirdLife Malta, the NMNH (HM), Centre for Fisheries Sciences, Malta Maritime Authority, the AFM, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK and SPEA (the Portuguese Birdlife partner). MEPA and HSBC were co-financiers of the project. A press conference was held at St James Cavalier on 30 June to inform the public on the successful closure of this project. A Layman's report in Maltese and English was also presented to the press.

### **REMASI (Italy-Malta) finance project**

A preliminary meeting was held in Palermo on 19-21 February for the submission of the REMASI project which was formally accepted in November. Work will start in 2011.

### **Ghar Dalam**

The transfer of specimens from Ghar Dalam to the NMNH was continued. In December the Principal Curator was invited by Dr Adrian Lister and Dr Victoria Herridge of the Palaeontology Department of the Natural History Museum, London to investigate the possibility of a joint project dealing with the dating of Ghar Dalam sediments and bone material.

## **Phoenician, Roman and Medieval Sites Department**

### **SPC**

Following continued remonstrations by members of the Jewish Orthodox organisation Athra Kadisha about the so-called Jewish Catacombs within the SPC complex, and following high level discussions with the Maltese Government, the said organisation was authorised to remove all bone material from the site. This operation was conducted in February, when all bagged material which had been uncovered from the 2009 excavations was rather unceremoniously put in garbage bags and subsequently buried in a communal grave in the Jewish Cemetery in Marsa. All works were supervised by the SCH.

## **Prehistoric Sites Department**

### **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra**

An undergraduate dissertation by a Geography student, Simon Farrugia, from the University of Malta, sought to analyse the effects of wind on the temples now that the shelters are installed. Results of this study showed that the shelter itself was also effective at protecting the site from strong winds. An article about the design, related studies and impact of the protective shelters on the temples and their landscape by JoAnn Cassar, Mario Galea, Reuben Grima, Katya Stroud and Alex Torpiano, was published in the international journal *Environmental Earth Sciences; Special Issue on Monuments under Threat, 2011*. In September the guide book for Hagar Qim and Mnajdra was published as part of the Insight Heritage Guides series.

### **Scientific Committee for the Conservation of the Megalithic Temples**

ERDF (2007-13): The Committee provided its expertise for project by reviewing and providing guidance for the designs of the shelter for Tarxien Temples presented by Architect Torpiano, providing input with regards to the re-issue of the tender for the Supply of Environmental Monitoring Equipment at Tarxien Temples, and reviewing and providing guidance with regards to the Hydrological Studies at Tarxien Temples.

Studies: The Scientific Committee initiated studies related to a number of other conservation issues:

The rate of deterioration at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra started being monitored by means of detailed photographic documentation. Additional means for tracing rates of deterioration are being investigated by the Committee and the Prehistoric Sites Department.

Since the re-launch of the conservation programme on the Megalithic Temples, the mortar repair of cracked and broken megaliths at Hagar Qim was completed and mortar repair of megaliths at Mnajdra was commenced. Trials have started on the replacement of detached cement with lime mortar at these two sites.

The Committee reviewed and provided guidance for the continuing environmental monitoring at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra. Following a request from the Ministry of Gozo, the Committee provided guidance with regards to the preservation of decorated megaliths at Ġgantija.

The Committee approved the methodology and provided guidance for the restoration of a collapse in apse 11 at Hagar Qim, and prepared the methodology for and supervised the

restoration of part of apse 3 at Haġar Qim where a megalith had broken in two jeopardizing the stability of the rest of the structure. A report on the state of conservation and proposed solutions to reinstate the structural stability of the Central Temple apses at Mnajdra was prepared by Architect Shirley Cefai. These proposals will be finalized and implemented in 2011.

Terms of Reference for the restoration of the rubble reconstructed apses at Tarxien Temples have been submitted to the Scientific Committee for review. Implemented is expected in 2011.

## **UNESCO**

Malta was represented by MariaElena Zammit in the Mediterranean Sub-Region meeting of National Focal Points on Periodic Reporting on UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Akko, Israel. During the meeting, current issues and future plans concerning World Heritage Sites were discussed. Key points that require action by Malta are: official submission of statements of Outstanding Universal Value for all three properties by 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011; and drafting and submission of Management Plans for all three properties before the next Periodic Reporting Cycle (July 2012). Malta was also asked to consider whether it is able to host the next Meeting of the European Mediterranean Sub-Region in March/April 2011, and to advise the WH Centre accordingly. State parties were also encouraged to conduct Strategic Environment Assessments when preparing Management Plans whether they are mandatory or not.

A response was sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee's decision at the 32<sup>nd</sup> session in Quebec City, Canada which requested Malta to provide, inter alia, "a report on work at the Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Archaeological Park and on the proposed works at Tarxien and Ggantija Temples. This report included details regarding: the protective shelters and visitor centre at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra, the proposed protective shelter, visitor centre and walkway at Tarxien Temples, the removal of a concrete wall, proposed walkway and visitor centre at Ggantija Temples, and expropriation of land at Ta' Haġrat Temples.

## **Skorba**

Following discussions, the research project entitled 'The Maltese Temples Landscape Project' in conjunction with Bournemouth University, the German Archaeological Institute, the UOM and the SCH was kicked off. Fieldwork was carried out in the vicinity of Skorba in April and August following acquisition of necessary permits. Further work is planned for 2011.

## **Other**

The department is assisting in the CARARE project. Activities included: participation in the kick-off meeting in Copenhagen in March and the 3D workshop in Brussels in December; carrying out a survey of existing data on sites and archaeological objects; preparation of records for inclusion in Europeana. Research is being carried out on the optimization of HM's 3D models for use on the web.

# Conservation Division

## Architecture, Stone and Objects Conservation Department

The department worked on a number of projects mostly involving artefacts and sites from the National Collection.

The architecture conservation arm of the department was run by three *mastri* and eighteen Masonry Heritage Skills vocational students following their apprenticeship with HM. These students have been exposed to different working environments ranging from the conservation of internal spaces to the restoration of severely deteriorated external architectural structures.

Three different teams worked concurrently on different projects. The conservation of a ground floor room at the Inquisitors' Palace was completed by the first year apprentices under the supervision of their MCAST instructors. This job exposed the students to basic cleaning techniques, re-pointing and plastic repair.

Another team completed the conservation of the internal courtyard of the NMFA and followed up other conservation work which was required within the building, including the complete re-pointing of the party wall overlooking Casa Scaglia and the re-erection of three ventilation stacks on the roof of the museum. During summer, the roof above the main staircase had its *deffun* layer restored after the bituminous membrane done in the 1980s was removed. This exercise is aimed at improving the internal environmental conditions of the museum.

Emergency restoration works were carried out at Fort St Angelo. This included the restoration of the Great Siege bell which was carried out with the assistance of the Restoration Unit of the MRRA. The parapet wall on a ramp built during the British period was also completely restored by the Architecture Conservation section. Similarly an old room, possibly a store, on the roof of the cavalier, which was in danger of collapsing, was restored and had its timber beams and *xorok* roof replaced and covered with a new layer of *deffun*. During summer archaeological investigations were carried out at the entrance to the fort and the ditch outside the Main Gate was exposed. This was done by the same section under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist appointed as a monitor by the SCH.

A planning application has been submitted to MEPA for the restoration of the roof turrets, clock tower and main façade of the MMM. In the meantime preparatory work, including the stone dressing and carving of parts of the turret already dismantled last year, was completed so that once the MEPA permit is issued work can proceed on the restoration of this turret followed by the other two on the same roof.

Other works included the conservation of a number of rooms within the Palace Armoury which will be used as offices, and conservation and restoration maintenance works at Bigli.

The Objects Conservation arm of this department also worked on a number of artefacts from the national collection. This year's main project was the cleaning and conservation of a number of historical armour suits from the Palace Armoury. The Great Siege Bell found at Fort St Angelo was also cleaned and conserved. The painted plaster bust of Edward Caruana Dingli was conserved prior to its display at the exhibition of works of this artist organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti*. Similar conservation work was carried out on a number of exhibits related to St Paul which were exhibited at Auberge de Castile during the Papal visit in April. Conservation work on an infant skeleton forming part of the collection at the NMA was also completed. The conservation team was also engaged in routine cleaning of artefacts on display at the NMA.

Documentation work consisting mainly of condition assessment was done on the mosaic floors of the Ghajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths. Other routine assessments were also done on newly acquired artefacts to our collection. Conservators worked together with apprentices from the Architecture Conservation on routine conservation works at Haġar Qim, Mnajdra and Tarxien.

Conservators from this team were also engaged in ongoing practical work with the B.Cons students, particularly on stone, ceramic and metal artefacts. A number of museum artefacts were conserved through this exercise. These included a number of stone cannon balls, a modern metal sculpture named 'Cathedral' by Tony Pace, a *stasija* from the ethnographic collection and a nickel plated sword case from the MMM collection. A stone baptism font originally located at the ex-Methodist Church was cleaned and conserved and included as part of the ethnographic collection at the Inquisitor's Palace.

## **Diagnostic Science Laboratories & Preventive Conservation Department**

During the past year, the Diagnostic Science Laboratories and its Preventive Conservation Unit provided sustained support within the three main objectives of the department: scientific analysis and diagnostic services, research in conservation/conservation science and capacity building through education. It has been involved in a large number of HM conservation projects, as well as external projects for third parties, including the UOM, MEPA, the MRRA and a number of private engineering and architectural companies. The provision of assistance, including heavy involvement in lecturing, to students reading the Institute's Bachelor's and Master's degree courses has continued.

A selection of the most significant activities/projects is listed below:

### **HM projects:**

- Sea salt aerosol study and biological monitoring at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra: Winter/ Spring/ Summer/ Autumn season vegetation surveys – ongoing;
- Analysis of *St Ignatious* paintings;
- Analysis of Phoenician coins – SCH;
- Haġar Qim and Mnajdra post shelter soil analyses – in progress;

- Testing of lighting units re suitability in various environments – numerous reports completed;
- Analysis of samples from walls at NMA;
- Testing of air and water samples from Hypogeum and other sites, including microbiological and chemical testing in collaboration with CADA Italia and Analytica Labs;
- Analysis of efflorescence, testing of lighting units and bio-deterioration pilot study at SPC;
- Analysis of water samples from Għar Dalam;
- Analysis of *Virgin and Child with St John the Baptist* painting;
- Analysis of samples from *St Michael Niche*
- Analysis of ‘leather’ (composite) cannon;
- Cleaning and further analysis of Egyptian Mummy sarcophagus;
- Publishing of a paper in *Environmental Earth Science* entitled ‘Shelters over the Megalithic Temples of Malta: debate, design and implementation’;
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) programme within various HM sites – ongoing;
- Participation in Scientific Committee meetings – ongoing.

### **Environmental monitoring, preventive conservation and related tasks**

- Downloading of data from various HM sites where environmental monitoring is being carried out, and updating of all environmental monitoring data;
- Environmental Monitoring at NMFA, evaluation and reporting to the Preventive Conservation Action Working Group - proposed action on preventive conservation measures which should be adopted at the NMFA in light of the interpretation of data acquired from the remote environmental monitoring system;
- Involved in the planning and deployment of instruments for the environmental monitoring and interpretation project at SPC together with Evolve Ltd representatives and Tobit Cuteis Associates (UK);
- Post-shelter monitoring at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra temples;
- Reporting to the Scientific Committee regarding environmental monitoring comparison of inside sheltered conditions to outside conditions at Mnajdra one year post shelter;
- Weather station (Delta T) and wind station (Babuc) maintenance/repair; planning installation of new equipment (projected for 2011) that replaces unserviceable components of the original equipment that was commissioned in 2003;
- Communication with Tecno Penta (Italy) and the Malta Standards Authority on the configuration/setup of surface temperature sensors, and with Lsi Lastem (Italy) regarding the modem setup of Hagar Qim’s weather station;
- Installation of soil water content sensors at Mnajdra weather station;
- Transmission fault repair Ġgantija Weather station and maintenance of rain bucket receptor, in liaison with AIS Ltd; reconnection after repair, resetting of modem and software update;
- Installation and configuring of database software to be able to build a complete database of environmental data for HM sites;
- Updating of environmental data banks;
- Analyses of environmental data for various projects, including the provision of assistance to Master’s and B Cons students;



- Provided assistance to UCL in their local monitoring campaign at the Inquisitor's Palace (installation of data loggers, pest traps and pollution tubes); dismantling of data loggers from NMA;
- Light and environmental survey for the Caruana Dingli exhibition at The Palace, Valletta;
- Light and environmental survey at the President's Palace, San Anton;
- Contribution to various scientific committee meetings regarding Ggantija structural evaluation and conservation of particular deteriorated megaliths, Tarxien tenting project, and evaluation, discussion and implementation of conservation interventions at Haġar Qim.

### **EU-related projects**

- Provided assistance to the ESF 1.31 Wood CPR, including the organization and co-ordination of EQF Level 7 course in wood conservation science;
- Involved in the updating of technical specifications and the adjudication of tenders related to biological studies and environmental monitoring for the Tarxien/SPC ERDF project;
- Continuous contribution towards the ERA-NET FP7 project as HM nominated delegates, such as submission of various questionnaires, proposals in relation to research in the field of conservation, annual report, updating of NET HERITAGE Observatory, etc. Attended the Mid-Term Assessment Meeting in Madrid and Consultative Workshop/Meeting in London;
- COST Action IE0601 – carried out all work required from Management Committee members;
- COST Action D42 – carried out all work required from Management Committee members, including poster presentation of Malta report during the final meeting in Dublin;
- Involved as national technical experts for the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) TC RER8015 – organised the regional planning meeting held in Malta in September.

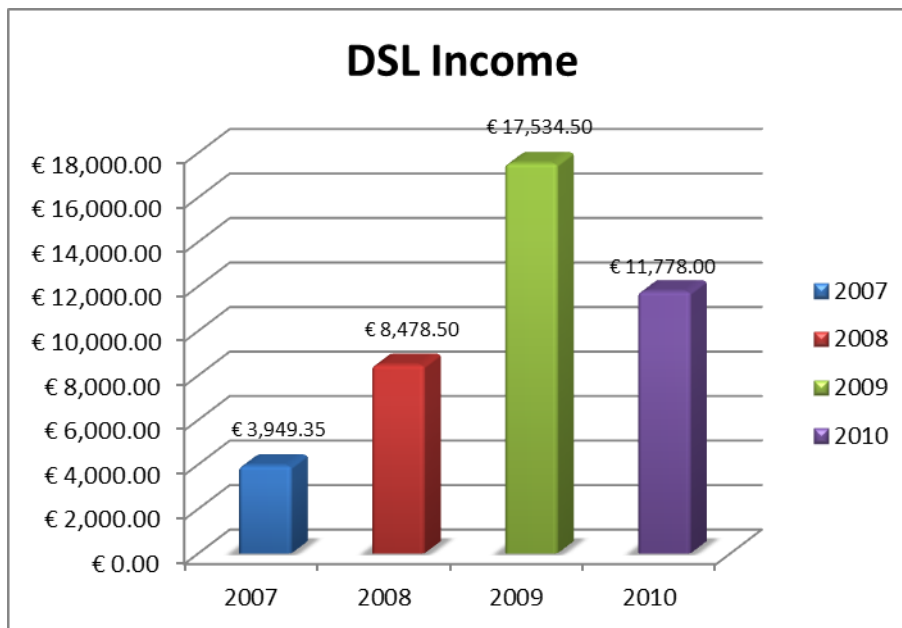
### **Work for external companies/individuals:**

Various requests for analysis by many external companies/individuals, including:

- St Paul's Sacristy pigment and oil characterization – MRRA;
- SEM & FTIR analysis of various samples, PCBs and electronic parts – Methode Electronics;
- Analysis of paint cross sections – External conservators;
- Analysis of different cement mixtures – Faculty for the Built Environment, UOM;
- Consultancy services and various analyses for Malta University Holdings Company (UoM);
- Christ the Redeemer Project; x-ray imaging and analysis of paint cross-sections from statue – External conservator;
- Analysis of Giuseppe Cali paintings – San Anton Palace;
- Analysis of cements and glass samples – UOM;
- Analysis of electronic parts – Hetric Malta Ltd;
- Analysis of various samples – DMME, UOM;
- Salt analysis of the building remains/façade at St Barbara Bastions – Architecture Project;

- Analysis of stone surface crusts at Yellow Garage – Architecture Project;
- Analysis of plastic play mats for hazardous compounds – Malta Standards Authority;
- Analysis of environmental samples/dust particles – MEPA.

An indication of income generated through external work in 2010 (compared to the previous three years) is illustrated in the figure below.



#### **Lecturing duties and student supervision:**

- Internal training and supervision of four MCAST apprentice students, including training on laboratory equipment;
- Onsite meetings (Hypogeum and Tarxien Temples) with BTEC students to help them familiarize themselves with environmental monitoring techniques;
- Assistance provided to a number of Master's and B.Cons. students in their studies (scientific analysis and onsite work) and in the analysis of environmental data;
- Assistance to UCL Master's students in environmental monitoring and data updates at the NMA;
- Lecturing in various study units (theoretical and practical) for the B.Cons course.

## **Paintings, Books, Paper and Textiles Conservation Department**

### **Paintings Department**

The strategy of working on short term, medium term, and long term projects to increase productivity was continued, and a considerable amount of work was finished. The department also took a major project with the conservation-restoration treatment of wooden soffits and frieze wall paintings of four bedrooms at Verdala Palace. The conservation treatment is being sponsored by Bank of Valletta. The two lunette wall paintings at the Jesuits Church which were also used for didactic purposes were also finished. It is hoped that the entire chapel, including the cleaning and restoration of the

stone work and the cleaning of marble ornaments, will be finished in 2011. Thirty nine works of art have been treated by the department during this year. All conservators were also involved in lecturing B.Cons. students and supervision of practicals. The department also followed Cinzia Bogoni, an intern, from June-August 2010, Renald Bezzina a Maltese intern studying at Palazzo Spinelli, Italy, Domenico Scardino, Italy, and Paula Freschen from Germany.

The following are conservation/ restoration works carried out:

- 22 paintings by Edward Caruana Dingli
- Two polychrome sculptures from the MMM
- Portrait of Admiral Keith from the MMM
- Adam and Eve (Venetian school) from the NMFA
- Portrait of a seated man with gloves from the Ministry of Education
- Face of Christ (private collection)
- Grand Master Vilhena (attributed to Alessio Erardi) from the Presidential Palace
- Marriage of the Virgin and St Joseph (lunette wall painting at the Jesuits Church)
- St Barbara from the MMM
- Allegory of the Order (copy) from the Inquisitor's Palace
- St John the Baptist by Pacheco de Rosa from the NMFA
- Grand Master de Rohan (School of Favray) from the Presidential Palace
- St Joseph by Gian Nicola Buhagiar from the Inquisitor's Palace
- Mystic marriage of St Catherine of Alexandria from the NMFA
- Virgin & Child with infant St John (panel painting) from the NMFA
- First aid treatments on paintings by Francesco Zahra and Inglott and other contemporary works from the NMFA
- Crucifix at Mater Dei Chapel – Environmental monitoring
- Gran Salon – NMA – Environmental monitoring
- Egyptian sarcophagus – Mapping of manufacturing techniques and state of conservation
- Maestro Alberto panel painting – analysis of data
- Ta' Kola Windmill – Investigation and sample taking
- Wood identification analysis of several artefacts
- Sciortino model – inspection and disinfestations
- Sample tests to detect the original paint layer of the stairs at the NMFA
- Condition assessment of all the paintings at Zammit Clapp Hospital.
- Two lunette paintings from the Jesuits Church.

#### **Work in progress**

- Verdala Palace soffits and frieze wall paintings. These should be ready by March 2011.
- Filfla panel painting – Structural works on the wooden support.
- Maestro Alberto (panel painting) from the NMFA.
- The Drunkenness of Noah by Mattia Preti from the NMFA.
- Large canvas painting by Giuseppe D'Arena from the Jesuits Church
- Still life with fish by Giuseppe Recco from the NMFA.

- Tad-Dejr fresco painting from the NMFA.
- Portrait of a Gentleman from the MMM.
- Crucifixion from the NMFA.
- Joseph taken into Prison from the Inquisitor's Palace.
- St Paul liberating Malta from the Turkish siege of 1429 by Mattia Preti from the Mdina Cathedral.
- St Paul with Mdina in the back ground by Francesco Zahra from the Cathedral Museum, Mdina.

### **Books and Paper Department**

Work focused on flat works themed by artists. Prints/drawings were photographed, conserved-restored and mounted ready for exhibition if the need arose. A total of 237 works of art on paper were conserved, including 54 works by the Busuttill artists, 33 charcoal drawings by Giorgio Borg, 58 works by Bellanti, 9 maps from the NMFA, 57 rare drawings and prints, and other 26 works mostly by Brocktorff. 25 books from the NMFA library were also conserved. Conservation treatment was also started on three volumes of the 'Arcano del Mare' of the National Library. Two volumes are ready and the third will be finished by March 2011.

The Department was also involved in lecturing of B.Cons students and supervision of practicals. During 2010 the Department also followed an intern, Laure Korini, from the *Ecole de Condé* in France.

### **Fototeka**

Work continued on the Fototeka which has been set up at the NMA and 800 negatives have been cleaned and put in new conservation envelopes. The following have also been scanned and catalogued:

Catalogued and scanned glass plate negatives	327
Un-catalogued but scanned glass plate negatives	10
Film negatives	65
Total	402

### **Textile Department**

The department continued to produce mounts, rolls and boxes for the costumes and accessories of the National Costume Collection. The items were also photographed and together with their description and condition assessment were put on a database. Photos were also printed to be attached onto the storage boxes at the Inquisitor's Palace for easy reference. All stored items were cleaned and any minor repairs and first aid interventions were carried out. Dust covers for the open shelving storage were also sewn and hung. If effective, this will be used on other open shelving storage in other museums. Since most of the storage methods are rather innovative and since research was carried out on the archival materials to be used for storage, a publication entitled 'Innovate methods for the storage of historical costumes and accessories' is being prepared.

Textile artefacts undergoing anoxic treatment were transported to the textile studio from the Inquisitor's Palace. Conservation-restoration will be performed on these costumes after the anoxic treatment.

The Teniers Tapestry has been mounted on to a polycarbonate sheet and been placed in a frame behind conservation glass which has been ordered specifically from abroad. On site visits to view and give consultation on various textiles artefacts in various museums and also churches were also conducted during the year.

During the year both conservators delivered lectures to B.Cons students and followed an intern student from Poland from February to May.

# The Institute for Conservation and Management of Cultural Heritage

## **Formal Higher Education: B. Cons. (Hons); M. Cons.; MA (Cultural Heritage Management)**

Admissions: Following a decision taken by HM and the UOM, responsibility for the undergraduate course and the two post graduate courses was transferred to the Faculty of the Built Environment of the UOM. A transition agreement was signed between the entities and entered into effect from 1 October. As a result of one of the clauses in this agreement, there were no admissions in 2010 due to a moratorium of two years. The current courses are being phased out.

In the meantime, students following the B.Cons.(Hons) course progressed to their respective year. All the students finalised their year of study with success. The seven first year students progressed to their second year of studies in Area of Study B (Ceramics, Glass, Metals and Stone); the two second year students in Area of Study A (Paintings and Polychrome Sculptures), progressed to their third year; the three third year students, one in each of three different areas of study, namely A, B and D (Books and Paper) progressed to their fourth and final year. The fourth year student in Area of Study A has finished the course successfully placing Second Class (Upper) and graduated in November.

The Masters in Conservation (M. Cons.) and the Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage Management were not offered for the academic year 2010-11.

Graduation: In November the ICMCH saw one graduate in B.Cons.(Hons) in paintings and polychrome sculpture: the graduate was the only student during the 2006 intake. Moreover, one of the conservators working with HM in textiles conservation graduated in M.Cons. during 2010: the graduate was one of three students during the 2007 intake. The other two students (both HM employees) have graduated last year. Six out of seven of the MA-CHM students have also graduated during the same ceremony.

Course provision and examination: The involvement of academics and professionals with particular expertise was again high on the list of priorities and once again ICMCH invited highly respected local and foreign experts to contribute in the courses for the academic year 2009-10. Among others were Dr Stavroula Golfomitsou, Prof. JoAnn Cassar, Ms Grazia de Cesare and Prof. Giacomo Pirazzoli. As in the past, standards were ensured through the composition of Boards of Examiners including non-visiting external examiners.

Vocational education and training (VET): The vocational level Masonry Heritage Skills Certificate Course admitted eighteen students. Eight students progressed to 'Sewwej', five progressed to Mastru 1, and three progressed to Mastru 2. Six students finished their vocational studies and are qualified to work as *mastri*. The current course content of this

VET course is being re-structured. The revised course content will be implemented next academic year 2011-12 with the new intake group.

Introductory Course to Conservation and Restoration: The 'Introductory Course to Conservation and Restoration' was not offered in 2010 since its content is usually tied to the entrance examination for the B.Cons.(Hons). It was therefore decided that this course would not be held in order not to give the wrong perception to the public, especially prospective students who intended to enter the B. Cons. (Hons).

**EU funded project: ESF1.31 – Wood CPR**

This project was launched on 24 April 2009. The 'Education and Training in Wood Conservation – Restoration' which the ICMCH is currently undertaking, 85% of which is co-financed through The European Social Fund (Cohesion Policy 2007-13, Operational Programme II – Empowering People for More Jobs and a Better Quality of Life), improves education and skills in relation to material cultural heritage at large, and specifically in wood and furniture in the context of the European Qualifications Framework.

The Education and Training in Wood Conservation-Restoration Project aims at providing the framework for education and training leading to work in the cultural heritage conservation-restoration sector with particular emphasis on wood and furniture; developing and/or providing education opportunities for unskilled/to re-skill employed and unemployed males and females throughout the life cycle in Malta and Gozo; providing postgraduate research opportunities for specialisation in science-related subjects; providing resources to educators, researchers and students to attain the above; developing programmes consonant with national reforms in education; and developing human resources to assist the cultural heritage sector.

Among the deliverables of the project are:

Development of an EQF level 1 curriculum and syllabus in material cultural heritage preservation skills;

An EQF level 3 curriculum and syllabus in wood and furniture heritage skills;

Ten runs of the EQF level 1 course in material cultural heritage preservation skills in Malta and Gozo targeting 150 participants;

One run of the EQF level 3 course in wood and furniture heritage skills targeting 15 participants;

Design of EQF level 6 curriculum and syllabus in conservation-restoration of wood and furniture leading to employable role in the sector;

Design and implementation of a course at EQF level 7 in Conservation Science applied to wood and furniture leading to employable role in the sector;

One run of the EQF level 7 course in conservation science applied to wood and furniture targeting eight participants;

Access to publications including on-line journals to educators, researchers and students to attain the above;

Valorisation products on the above for the greater awareness of cultural heritage.

All the courses which are being offered throughout this project are free-of-charge.

#### Course in preservation of cultural heritage material at EQF Level 1

The course at EQF level 1 'Preservation of Material Cultural Heritage' is offered to participants who wish to familiarise themselves with the disciplines exercised by conservators in preserving cultural heritage artefacts, including the problems encountered in museums, churches and palaces. The course is not aimed to train participants as conservator-restorers but simply as a general knowledge intended to make people aware of what could have avoided damage and problems in cultural heritage artefacts and what preventive measures could have been done. The course addresses all areas of study namely paintings, stone, metals, ceramics, glass, textiles, paper, and wood.

Five of the ten runs have been delivered so far – one was held in Gozo. Lectures were delivered at the NMA and at the Gozo Centre for Arts & Crafts, Ghajnsielem in Gozo by two qualified conservator-restorers, namely Michael Formosa and Pierre Bugeja. The courses were concluded with two site visits to the NMFA and the Inquisitor's Palace for courses held in Malta and the Folklore Museum in the Cittadella and Ta' Kola Windmill in Xaghra for courses held in Gozo. During these site visits participants were asked to take an interactive role and take note of characteristic details that might lead to possible deterioration mechanisms. Students discussed their observations with the lecturers and in the presence of the other students as part of their assessment.

The certificate acquired through this course was set as a pre-requisite for those participants who would apply for the EQF level 3 course. To date the number of applicants for the EQF level 1 course is 121 while the number of participants eligible for the certificate is 58.

#### Course in wood restoration at EQF Level 3 in collaboration with MCAST

The course at EQF level 3 in Wood Conservation and Restoration is a vocational and education training (VET) course. The lectures deal specifically about the deterioration and care of wood and furniture with an emphasis on the practical side of wood working and bench joinery, and with reference to the use of wood in the Maltese islands in the cultural heritage sector. The course content was developed upon research by ICMCH in consultation with MCAST (Institute of Building Engineering & Construction). This course started in October and shall run for a full academic year at MCAST workshop in Naxxar. Practical sessions related to conservation-restoration projects are held at the Armoury in Birgu. The number of participants to date is 13.

#### Course in conservation science related to wood at EQF Level 7

The course at EQF level 7 in conservation science related to wood is an academic higher education certificate. This course brings together scientists and conservators with different backgrounds to work together in a multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary team. The course content was developed upon research by ICMCH in consultation with the *Università degli Studi di Firenze (Dipartimento di Economia, Ingegneria, Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie e Forestali)*. The course was launched at the end of October and shall run for nine weeks spread over a full academic year. Five sessions will be held in Malta at HM in Bigħi and four sessions will be held in Florence at the *Università degli Studi di Firenze*. To date eight participants are following this course.



## Education Department

### Informal Education in Museums/Sites

Activity sheets were designed for Ta' Mintna Catacombs, Haġar Qim, Verdala Palace and the NMFA Treasure Hunt.

Admissions: As in past years, students at primary and secondary levels of education were admitted free of charge. This offer has also been extended to post-secondary students when the visit is part of their course content and they are accompanied by their lecturers. The total number of students who visited HM's museums/sites as part of their curricular needs or for extra curricular activities amounts to 31,304 as per table below:

2010		
Level of Education	Number of Students	Number of teachers/lecturers
Primary – State	16822	1818
Primary – Church	5296	427
Primary – Private	2313	238
Secondary – State	3488	425
Secondary – Church	2198	225
Secondary – Private	3488	116
Post-Secondary – MCAST	20	1
Post-Secondary – UoM	25	2
Post-Secondary – ITS	12	1
Others (Course organised by Wasteserv)	133	4
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	31304	3257
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>34561</b>	

The department was also involved in various activities/events. These include the organisation of Degree Plus student visits, participation in various career conventions to create more awareness on job opportunities offered by HM; the organisation of various education programmes / games and thematic activities in HM museums and sites, facilitating guided tours around the Bighi conservation laboratories, organisation of HM staff visits and heritage trails for the general public or for staff of private organisations, coordination of the *Apprezza* Campaign launched by MTA and of the *Skola Sajf* programmes.

# **Appendix I**

## **List of Acquisitions**

## **Appendix II**

### **HM Calendar of Events 1 January – 31 December**

#### **Exhibitions hosted by HM**

##### **18 February – 17 March**

Monoprints – An exhibition of monoprints by Alfred Chircop at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

##### **27 March – 18 April**

CamilleriCarbonaro – An exhibition of paintings by Austin Camilleri and Pawlu Carbonaro at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

##### **10 April – 16 May**

Walking in Africa – A photographic exhibition by Guido Bonett at the NMNH.

##### **23 April – 16 May**

No Time, No Space – An exhibition of paintings by Anthony P. Vella at HM Head Office.

##### **1 May – 7 June**

The Human Figure – An exhibition of paintings by Patrick Dalli at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

##### **22 May – 27 June**

Deconstructing Michelangelo – An exhibition of paintings by George Scicluna at HM Head Office.

##### **12 June – 18 July**

On the Way – An exhibition of paintings by Japanese artist Umeko Okano at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

##### **5 – 30 July**

My favourite Museum Object – An exhibition of drawings by Gozo Primary School children at the Gozo Area Office Exhibition Hall, the Citadel.

##### **16 August – 26 September**

Unframing Migration – A photographic exhibition organised by the Migrants' Solidarity Movement and funded by the MCCA at HM Head Office.

##### **26 August – 29 September**

After Caravaggio – An exhibition of paintings by Olaug Vethal at the MMM.

##### **17 September – 17 October**

Archaeology of the Future – An exhibition of mixed media by Galina Troizky held at the Loggia, NMFA.

**8 – 22 October**

Xaxa's 365 – An exhibition of 365 masks by Charlene Calleja at the MMM.

**23 October – 28 November**

Our Heritage – An exhibition of watercolours by George Apap at the Loggia, NMFA.

**6 – 19 November**

Architecture Thesis Project Exhibition – An exhibition of thesis projects by the UOM's 2010 architecture graduates held at the MMM.

**Exhibitions organised by HM**

**20 January – 9 April**

ERDF Ġgantija Design Contest – An exhibition of the drawings and models submitted for the design contest, at HM Head Office.

**12 February – 14 March**

The Lanfranco-De Lucca Donations – An exhibition displaying selections from the donations to HM by Mr Guido Lanfranco and Prof Denis de Lucca, at the NMNH.

**13 – 21 March**

The Buhagiar Donation – An exhibition of original drawings and bozzetti featuring works by the late Antonio Buhagiar at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

**14 May – 30 June**

Willie Apap: Works from the National Collection – An exhibition of paintings on the occasion of *Lejlet Lapsi, Notte Gozitana* at the Gozo Area Office Exhibition Hall, the Citadel.

**25 September**

Latest Major Acquisitions by HM – An exhibition of selected items acquired by HM during the past few months on the occasion of *Notte Bianca* held at the Medieval Hall, NMA

**8 – 15 October**

Latest Major Acquisitions by HM – An exhibition of selected items acquired by HM during the past few months on the occasion of *Birgufest* held at St Angelo Hall, MMM.

**8 October – 11 November**

An insight into the Textile and Costume Collection – An exhibition on the conservation and proper storage facilities for the National Costume Collection by HM's Textile Conservation Laboratory at the Inquisitor's Palace on the occasion of *Birgufest*.

**2 November – 23 January 2011**

Sir Temi Zammit: Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death – An exhibition of artefacts relating to Sir Temi Zammit at the Lobby of the NMA.

**12 November – 5 December**

Appreciating Bats – An exhibition on bats at the NMNH.

**12 – 30 November**

Toys from the National Collection – An exhibition of toys and games at the Inquisitor's Palace held on the occasion of the Festival of Traditional Maltese Games in Birgu.

**19 November – 14 January 2011**

From Birth to Childhood: A Christian Perspective – An exhibition featuring a number of important artworks from the Fine Arts National Collection held at the HM Gozo Area Office Exhibition Hall, the Citadel.

**12 December – 16 January 2011**

Scales in Stone – An exhibition on fossil fish from Maltese rocks, on the occasion of an open day at the NMNH.

**12 December – 31 January 2011**

An Insight into the Textile and Costume Collection Conservation Project – An exhibition on the occasion of an open day at the Inquisitor's Palace.

**Exhibitions in collaboration with others**

**19 December 2009 – 31 January (extended)**

Pictures from the Floating World – An exhibition of Japanese prints from the national collection at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA, in collaboration with the Malta Japan Association.

**5 – 21 February**

*5000 Sena ta' Storja - 100 Sena Parroċċa* – An exhibition of artefacts from the national collection organised by the *Kumitat Organizzattiv Ċentinarju 1910-2010* in collaboration with HM, at the church of St Ubaldeska, Paola.

**14 February – 21 March**

Fragments of Tibet – A photographic exhibition organised by Aaron Micallef in collaboration with the Tibet Society of Malta and HM, at the MMM.

**23 – 28 April**

ERDF Ġgantija Design Contest – An exhibition of the winning entry and two honorary mentions at the Victory Band Club, Xaghra, Gozo, in collaboration with the Xaghra Local Council.

**23 April – 31 May**

The Busuttill Artists: A legacy of three generations – An exhibition featuring works of art by the Busuttill family of artists organised by the Ministry for Gozo, in collaboration with

HM and *Kummissjoni Arti Sagra*, at the Exhibition Hall of the Ministry of Gozo, Victoria.

**6 August – 29 October**

Pictures of the Floating World: An exhibition of Japanese prints from the National Collection organised by HM in collaboration with the Malta Japan Association at the Gozo Area Exhibition Hall, the Citadel.

**17 September – 15 November**

The Art of Bamboo and Straw Weaves – An exhibition organised by the China Cultural Centre in Malta in collaboration with HM at the Salon of the NMA.

**24 September – 31 October**

Postage Stamp Artwork: Emvin Cremona (1919-1987) - Shaping a Modern Identity in Malta's Philatelic Heritage – An exhibition of a selection of stamp artworks of Emvin Cremona, organised by MaltaPost in collaboration with HM at the Contemporary Hall, NMFA.

**25 September**

Majolica from the National Collection – An exhibition of Majolica jars from the National Collection organised by HM for the *Notte Bianca* in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance, held at the Ministry of Finance, Valletta.

**25 September – 1 October**

*Luigi Maria Ugolini (1895-1936): Arkeologu Taljan f' Malta*/An Italian archaeologist in Malta. An exhibition organised by HM in collaboration with the OPM at Auberge de Castile, Valletta.

**14 – 19 October**

Feast of Our Lady of Pilar – Exhibition of the statue of Our Lady of Pilar at the Chapel of Our Lady of Pilar, San Anton Palace, Attard, in collaboration with the Office of the President of the Republic.

**17 – 28 November**

Robert Strickland, Bronzes – An exhibition of bronze sculptures by Robert Strickland in collaboration with HM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

**19 – 28 November**

*Regi Similia Passvs – Wirja Nazzjonali dwar il-Kult ta' Sant'Andrija Appostlu* – An exhibition organised by the Luqa Parish Church in collaboration with HM on the occasion of the 1950<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the martyrdom of St Andrew.

**Exhibitions in which HM participated**

**27 November 2009 – 11 April 2010**

From the Templars to Napoleon: Knights across European history and art, 13<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century – Organised by La Venaria Reale held at La Venaria Reale, Torino, Italy.

**7 – 30 April**

*Servi Servorum Dei: Il-Papat u Malta* – Organised by the National Library of Malta, at the National Library, Valletta.

**8 – 19 April**

*San Pawl f' Malta u l-Formazzjoni ta' Identità ta' Nazzjon* – Organised by the OPM at the Auberge de Castile, Valletta.

**25 September**

Keeping the records straight: *Għażla ta' volumi qodma mill-Arkivju Notarili Nazzjonali* – Organised by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Small Business and Land on the occasion of the *Notte Bianca* at the Ministry of Finance, Valletta.

**24 October**

Lace Day – Organised by the Malta Lace Guild at the Phoenicia Hotel.

**4 November – 5 December**

Francesco Zahra 1710-1773: An intimate look at his small works – Held at the Carmelite Priory, Mdina.

**10 – 18 November**

Presentation of a Fatimid Quarter Dinar to the Central Bank of Malta – Organised by the Central Bank of Malta and held at the Central Bank of Malta, Valletta.

**15 – 19 November**

Community Chest Fund 2010 Auction – Organised by the Office of the President of the Republic held at the Dining Room of The Palace, Valletta.

**19 December – 1 January 2011**

Fortunato and Enrico Mizzi – Organised by the Fortunato and Enrico Mizzi Foundation on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary from the demise of Prime Minister Enrico Mizzi at the Auberge de Castille, OPM.

**Exhibitions supported by HM****1 December – 8 January 2011**

150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Malta Stamp 1860-2010 – An exhibition featuring Malta's first stamps together with postal items that have been used in these last 150 years, organised by Maltapost at the National Library of Malta, Valletta.

**6 – 13 December**

*Nisġa ta' Lwien* – An art exhibition to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the Women's Section of St Philip Band Club organised by St Philip Band Club in collaboration with the Community Chest Fund at St Philip Band Club AD 1851, Żebbuġ.

## **Lectures organised / hosted by HM**

### **9 January**

The Conservation of Armour – A demonstration and lecture by the Senior Curator at the Palace Armoury, on the occasion of *Città Magica*.

### **12 February**

Medical Aspects of the Great Siege of Malta: 1565 – A lecture by medical historian Prof. C. Savona-Ventura followed by a buffet at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

### **25 February**

Excavations at the Brochtorff Xagħra Circle – A lecture by Dr Caroline Malone, Senior Lecturer in Prehistoric Archaeology, Queen's University Belfast, at the NMA.

### **12 May**

Walking in Africa – A lecture by Guido Bonett in connection with his photographic exhibition and his experiences in Africa, at the NMNH.

### **14 October**

The New Medieval and Renaissance Galleries at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London: displaying antiquity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – A lecture by Dr Paul Williamson from the Victoria and Albert Museum at the NMFA.

## **Events organised by HM**

### **5 January**

Official launching of the publication *Mortuary customs in prehistoric Malta – Excavations at the Brochtorff Circle at Xagħra (1987-94)* at the Ministry of Gozo, Victoria.

### **13 January**

Official presentation of an old crane to HM by the AFM Maritime Squadron, at the AFM Maritime Squadron Base, Hay Wharf, Floriana.

### **31 January**

Life at Sea – Re-enactment of life at the Vittoriosa port, including guided tours, activities for children, military drills, a typical market, conservation of an old boat, demonstration of boat model-making, and a display by the Maritime Squadron at the MMM.

### **11 – 13 February**

Carnivart: The Fun of Colour – Activities for schools and families including a mask-making workshop and a special tour of the museum by a Harlequin at the NMFA.

### **12 February**

Official presentation of two large natural history collections belonging to the late Dr Carmelo De Lucca and Mr Guido Lanfranco, received by the Hon. Minister for Education the Family and Employment Dolores Cristina, at the NMNH.



**24 February**

Art&Wine@SouthStreet: Where is Contemporary Art? – An event featuring Dr Toni Sant interviewed by Charles Xuereb at the NMFA.

**26 February**

Coordination of photography practical workshop for 1st year B.Cons (Hons.) students as part of their course work at the Inquisitor's Palace.

**26 – 27 February**

Stone Conservation Laboratory Open Day – Open day at HM Conservation Division, Bigli, to promote the vocational courses offered jointly by MCAST and HM.

**12 March**

Official launching of a publication on the Maltese sculptor Antonio Buhagiar entitled 'Antonio Buhagiar 1906-1998: Portrait of a Neglected Artist' by Prof. Mario Buhagiar at the NMFA.

**16 – 26 March**

Education Thematic Activities for Lent – An interactive programme for students based on the permanent exhibition *Passio et Resurrectio: The Cult of Christ's Passion and Resurrection from Lent to Pentecost*, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

**20 – 21 March**

Guided tours of Mnajdra Temples on the occasion of the Spring equinox.

**14 April**

Art&Wine@SouthStreet: In Memory of a Memorial – Featuring Claude Borg, Konrad Buhagiar and Kenneth Zammit Tabona at the NMFA.

**2 May**

*Festival t'Arti u Artigjanat Marbuta mal-Armar tal-Festi* – A festival of crafts relating to local feasts at the Inquisitor's Palace.

**7 June**

7 for Free – Free entrance to the Inquisitor's Palace, Għar Dalam, the NMFA, the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, the Folklore Museum, the Old Prisons and the Gozo Nature Museum. As an added attraction, a group of artists took part in 'Re-Painted' during which they made sketches of a live model at the NMFA.

**9 June**

Art&Wine@SouthStreet: An event featuring Raphael Vella and Lisa Gwen Baldacchino at the NMFA.

**10 – 11 June**

Commemorative 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 'First Attacks on Malta 1940' – A thematic event for students at the NWM to commemorate the first air raid attacks on Malta.

**20 – 21 June**

Guided tours of Mnajdra and Haġar Qim on the occasion of the summer solstice.

**27 June**

The Great Siege Harbour Heritage Trail – A boat trip around the harbours on the two sides of the Valletta peninsula and a tour of the MMM.

**1 August**

Open Day at SPC – Free entrance to family and/or friends of HM employees to participate in a visitor survey as part of the ERDF project at SPC.

**3 – 27 August, 1 – 2 September**

A hands-on workshop for school children at the Inquisitor's Palace consisting of painting a miniature model of the '*Anglu tal-Pilandra*' which they kept as a souvenir, and cooking of the traditional *biskuttini tar-raħal*.

**4 August**

Hands-on educational programme for children at Haġar Qim.

**6 August**

An educational programme for school children at the NMNH, including clay cast painting and nature-oriented games in the courtyard.

**6 August**

An educational programme for a group of primary school children at the Inquisitor's Palace consisting of preparation of traditional *biskuttini tar-raħal* and a re-enactment of a trial in the Inquisitor's tribunal.

**20 August**

An educational programme for school children at the Palace Armoury, including activities relating to the Museum's collection and a hands-on display of periodic armour and weapon replicas.

**17 September**

An education activity for school children consisting of hands-on workshop and a tour of SPC.

**18 September**

Haġar Qim – An open day for HM staff, including educational activities for children.

**19 September**

Haġar Qim – An open day for HM members, including education activities for children.

**20 – 21 September**

Guided tours on the occasion of the Equinox at Mnajdra Temples.

**23 September**

Official inauguration of Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Protective Shelters and Visitor Centre Project by the Hon. Prime Minister Dr Lawrence Gonzi.

**24 September**

An education activity for school children at the MMM consisting of hands-on workshop.

**2 October**

Open Day at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra including activities for all the family.

**28 October**

Official launching of the NWM educational programme sponsored by the European Institute of Education held at the NWM.

**30 October**

Behind the scenes – A tour of the museum for the members of the Malta Lace Club specifically to view the old laces of the national collection of costumes at the Inquisitor's Palace.

**7 November**

Malta at War Heritage Trail – Guided tour of the NWM, the War Shelters at Qormi and the Aviation Museum at Ta' Qali.

**27 November**

Art&Wine@SouthStreet Special: A special commemorative event dedicated to Dennis Vella, featuring Patrick Fenech and Marquis Nicholas de Piro at the NMFA.

**8 December**

Open Day including guided tours at the MMM, Domvs Romana and the NWM.

**12 December**

Open Day including guided tours at the Inquisitor's Palace, the NMNH, Ġgantija Temples and Ta' Kola Windmill.

**13 December**

*Ballut għal Għar Dalam* – Planting of Mediterranean Oak seeds, a talk about this indigenous tree, and a tour of Għar Dalam cave and museum.

**21 December**

Guided tours of Mnajdra Temples on the occasion of the Winter Solstice.

**Events in which HM participated**

**9 January**

Extended opening hours and reduced admission fee at the Palace Armoury, the State Rooms and the NMA for the *Città Magica*, organised by the Parliamentary Secretariat for Tourism, the Environment and Culture and the MTA.

### **9 – 12 March**

Expo 2010 – Participation in a career convention organised by the Education Department at the Malta Hilton Convention Centre.

### **1 April**

Extended opening hours and reduced admission fee at the Inquisitor's Palace for the event *Hamis ix-Xirka fid-Dawl tax-Xemgha fil-Birgu*, organised by the Birgu Local Council.

### **3, 25 April, 16, 23 May, 13 June**

*Apprezza* – Five educational activities at the Inquisitor's Palace, NMFA, Haġar Qim/Mnajdra Temples, NMNH and Għar Dalam as part of a campaign for children aged 6-12 years organised by MTA.

### **10 – 11 April**

Extended opening hours and reduced admission fee at the NMNH on the occasion of Medieval Mdina, organised by the Mdina Local Council.

### **15 April**

Commemoration of 'The Award of the George Cross Medal to the people of Malta', organised by the MTA at St George's Square, Valletta.

### **14 – 15 May**

A Night at the Museum – Special activities for the *Lejlet Lapsi, Notte Gozitana* including special viewing of the Phoenician Cippus at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology, activities for children at the Old Prisons, stamp exhibition featuring local flora and fauna in collaboration with the Gozo Philatelic Society at the Gozo Nature Museum, and Gozo lace in the making and food stall at the Folklore Museum, Gozo.

### **16 May**

Children's Day organised to celebrate ICOM Day, including guided tours, plaster cast painting, face painting, interactive games and sheet colouring at the NMFA.

### **6 June**

A small display of artefacts from the MMM as part of the Maritime Festival in Senglea organised by the MTA and the Senglea Local Council.

### **7 June**

Verdala Palace and Nature tours – A whole day activity at Verdala Palace with special tours to Buskett Gardens, commemorating World Environment Day.

### **16 June**

Launching of the book *At Home with the President* by Allied Publications, Kasco Group and HM at the Palace, Valletta.

### **30 June**

A press conference at St James Cavalier in Valletta to announce the official closure of the EU LIFE project and the launching of the Layman's report.

**26 September**

World Tourism Day – Għar Dalam and the Gozo Nature Museum opened to the public free of charge.

**2 – 3 October**

Bormla Fortifications Festival – An event organised by Bormla Local Council during which HM unveiled a replica of Mattia Preti's painting at St Helen's Gate.

**8 – 10 October**

Extended opening hours and reduced admission fees of the Inquisitor's Palace and the MMM on the occasion of *Birgufest*, in collaboration with the Birgu Local Council.

**19 – 24 October**

ETC Youth Days – Participation in an event to guide youths in their search for employment and career development held at the Granaries of Floriana and at Victoria, Gozo.

**1 – 6 November**

Festival Mediterranea – Heritage events organised by Astra Theatre in collaboration with HM, including lectures and guided tours by Dr David Trump at the Hypogeum and Ġgantija Temples.

**14 November**

*Niċċelebraw Flimkien* – An event organised by the Office of the Commissioner for Children as part of the celebrations to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ratification of the United Nations convention on Children Rights, at the Verdala Palace, Rabat.

**7 December**

Winter Tastes Festival – An event to promote typical winter food, including guided tours at a reduced price at Ta' Haġrat Temples, organised by the Mgarr Local Council.

**Events organised in collaboration with other institutions****3 June**

A heritage trail organised for employees of the MFSA, visiting the MMM and the Inquisitor's Palace.

**20 June**

'*Aprizza*' – A hands-on activity for children at Għar Dalam with mascot Turu, organised by the MTA.

**27 June**

*Jum Hal Tarxien* – Free admission at Tarxien Temples between 2pm and 5pm as part of a cultural event in collaboration with the Tarxien Local Council.

**12 July – 6 August**

Mediterranean Summer Programme – An international architecture summer school consisting of history and theory lectures and workshops organised by Architecture Project in collaboration with HM at the NMA.

**19 September**

Reduced admission fees at the NMNH for the Tourism and Biodiversity Fair, including a photographic exhibition by BICREF, lectures and documentaries on biodiversity and ecotourism organised by the MTA and HM.

**25 September**

Period Music in a Baroque setting by the Holland Baroque Society Musical Ensemble organised by the MCCA in collaboration with HM at the NMFA on the occasion of the *Notte Bianca*.

**25 September**

*Notte Bianca* – The NMA, NMFA, Palace Armoury, State Rooms and Head Office were open free of charge in collaboration with MCCA.

**1 October**

*L-Imqabba mal-Medda taż-Żmien* – Special opening and guided tours of Ta' Mintna Catacombs in collaboration with Mqabba Local Council.

**2 - 3 October**

Open day at San Pawl Milqi on the occasion of Farmers Festival in collaboration with the Burmarrad Local Council.

**16 October**

*Vetrina ta' dak li jagħmilna Maltin* – Symposium organised by *Għaqda Nazzjonali Armar tal-Festi fit-Toroq* in collaboration with HM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

**18 October**

Malta Comic-Con 2010 – A guided tour of the Palace Armoury, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra to international comic artists attending the Malta conference.

**20 October**

A heritage trail for Arrigo Group, visiting Tas-Silġ, Borġ in-Nadur and Ghar Dalam.

**12 November**

Malta Bat Night – An event including a public talk, a 'bat walk' around Mdina and an exhibition on bats at the NMNH organised in collaboration with MEPA as part of the biodiversity campaign.

**14 November**

Extended opening hours and reduced admission fee at the Inquisitor's Palace on the occasion of the *Festival ta' Logħob Tradizzjonali Malti fil-Birgu*, organised by HM, the Birgu Local Council and the Parliamentary Secretary for Public Dialogue and Information.

## **Events hosted by HM**

### **28 January – 14 February**

Malta Seascapes – Official launching of the book *Seascapes* by Flicristi and inauguration of the photographic exhibition at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

### **3 February**

Launch of European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion – Half day conference organised by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services at the Salon, NMA.

### **10 February**

Mass at the chapel of San Pawl Milqi followed by guided tours of the site on the occasion of the feast of St Paul.

### **19 February**

Meet Alfred Chircop and his Monoprints – An open discussion with Alfred Chircop at the NMFA.

### **5 March**

Launch of Arts Scholarships by the Hon. Minister for Education, the Family and Employment Dolores Cristina at the Mattia Preti Halls, NMFA.

### **5 March**

Bournemouth University Students attended a day seminar and visited the conservation laboratories at HM Conservation Division, Bighi.

### **28 March**

Heritage trail for BOV employees, including visits to Clapham Junction, Verdala Palace and the NMNH.

### **8 April**

Scientific Symposium – ‘The Historic City, a reference model for urban sustainable development policies’, part of the annual meeting of the CIVVIH in collaboration with ICOMOS Malta, HM, MTA and the Ministry of Finance at the Salon, NMA.

### **2 May**

A cultural tour to Gozo organised by the MCCA, including a visit to Ġgantija Temples.

### **5 June**

Launching of the project ‘Corporate Village Malta’ by the Ministry of Finance and Malta Enterprise at the MMM.

### **6 June**

Annual seminar organised by the Friends of the MMM at the St Angelo Hall, MMM.

### **14 September**

Advanced decomposition – A contemporary art and music performance by artist and musician Walter Vella at the NMFA.

**27 – 28 November**

DestinationArt – An open weekend at the NMFA including a book fair, guided tours, story telling, music, games, quizzes and watching artists in action, organised in collaboration with Midsea Books.

**5 December**

Cultural tour including a visit to Ħaġar Qim and the visitor centre organised by the MCCA.

**9 – 11 December**

The Django World Music Festival in Malta – A three day Jazz concert organised by the Belgian Embassy as a fund raising activity in aid of the Community Chest Fund at the NMA.



Description	Acquisition Method	Source
Sculpture of a ballerina	Donation	Mr Antoine Paul Camilleri
Slides, photographs, negatives, collection of trophies & awards	Bequest	Through the agency of Mr George Glanville of Fgura
Picture, certificate & medals pertaining to the late Able Seaman C.J. Busuttill who died on HME Eddy	Donation	Mr Joseph Mifsud
Photo of Battle of Britain Memorial	Donation	Mr Joseph Caruana
Publication: Oh what a lovely war	Donation	Mr Joseph Caruana
Photo of Mr. Cyril Jones DSM & Bar in Royal Navy uniform with his parents	Donation	Mr Malcolm Woods
Set of medals of Staff Sergeant John Borg (b. 3 March, 1927, d. 1996)	Donation	WO2 John Hamilton
Photo of Staff Sergeant John Borg	Donation	WO2 John Hamilton
Three German wartime film-footage (one on Malta) dated 1941 /42	Donation	Mr Angelo Briffa
Two old Malta postcards	Donation	Mr Philip Solomon
Set of a wartime stove	Donation	Mrs J O'Neil
Photocopy extracts from wartime logbook	Donation	Mr Alfred Moore
But ta' gewwa used by seafarers and travellers to carry money and valuables	Donation	Mr Angelo Dougall
Gong	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Two hot water bottles	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Ashtray with match box holder	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Flower pot	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Candle holder	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Toy soldier	Donation	Mrs Adriana Dekkers de Roan
Article on The Times titled "The wind from Italy" (March 1937)	Donation	Mr Joe Said
Four prints of the Malta Railway Station	Donation	Mr R J Mason
Nine photographs of a submarine and of donor when serving in the Royal Navy	Donation	Mr Derek Tutt
Publications, memorabilia, army badges and correspondence pertaining to the late Captain Douglas Tayar	Donation	Ms Aline Tayar
Journal: Aeroplane Monthly (December 2009)	Donation	Mr Carmel Farrugia
Publication: Aircraft and the Air (1938)	Donation	Mr Carmel Farrugia
2008 Remembrance souvenir coin	Donation	Mr Carmel Farrugia
Newspaper clipping from The Sunday Times of Malta (October 11, 1942)	Donation	Mr & Mrs J Nicholson Poppy
Shove halfpenny table	Donation	Ms Anne Armstong
One old sewing machine	Donation	Ms Nathanie Debono
Two gastri	Donation	Ms Nathanie Debono
Two arm-chairs	Donation	Ms Nathanie Debono
Seven pieces stone/coral bracelets with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Six pieces stone/coral necklaces with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
One stone/coral and gold spring bracelet	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Eighteen stone/coral rings with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Eight stone/coral rings with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Eleven pairs stone earrings with gold (+ one loose earring)	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Ten pairs stone/coral earrings with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Six pairs gold earrings with corals and stone	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Seven coral bracelets with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)

One gold and coral bracelet	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Seven coral necklaces with gold	Transfer	The Enforcement Division (Malta Customs)
Six spiral-bound original manuscript volumes	Donation	Dr Albert Ganado
WWII propoganda handkerchief with the words 'The Enemy has ears: be cautious be careful'	Donation	Mr Leonard Weller
Zingla	Donation	Ms Liliana Farrugia Gambin
20th century chest of drawers	Donation	Ms Liliana Farrugia Gambin
20th century commode	Donation	Ms Liliana Farrugia Gambin
Lavabo consisting of wash-hand basin complete with cabinet and slop	Donation	Mr George Glanville
NAAFI leather bag	Donation	Rev Fr Joseph Fsadni Catania



NMNH  
NMNH

NMFA

NWM

INQ

INQ

INQ

INQ

<b>Sites/Museums</b>	<b>Non -Paying Visitors 2010</b>	<b>Non -Paying Visitors 2009</b>
Ghar Dalam Cave & Museum	5839	3590
Hagar Qim Temples	9687	2362
Hal Saflieni Hypogeum	137	132
Inquisitor's Palace	9708	8580
Mnajdra Temples	7960	700
Malta Maritime Museum	5612	3823
Domvs Romana	2766	2035
National Museum of Archaeology	7111	29078
National Museum of Fine Arts	7985	3911
National Museum of Natural History	3996	3749
National War Museum	6375	5141
Palace Armoury	6021	7862
St Paul's Catacombs	3512	2891
State Rooms	10460	11125
Tarxien Temples	2823	2163
Folklore Museum	1859	953
Ggantija Temples	4026	4509
Museum of Archaeology	2284	1892
Natural Science Museum	1977	810
Ta' Kola Windmill	1397	1408
The Old Prisons	2561	1795
<b>Total</b>	<b>104096</b>	<b>98509</b>

<b>Non -Paying Visitors 2008</b>
1118
33
0
5167
0
3247
1390
4956
3145
2984
0
6233
1481
936
980
452
699
404
678
462
597
<b>34962</b>