



ANNUAL REPORT

2019

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Foreword

The year of 2019 was quite challenging for Heritage Malta. Although the Agency continued to strive to achieve satisfactory results in the number of visitors and generation of revenue it closed its books with a deficit.

Besides organising several popular exhibitions and participated in important exhibitions abroad it continued to invest more in the sites under its management. During the year under review it also increased the number of staff employed not only to improve its operations but also to increase the resources needed for the vast number of cultural activities, projects and work carried out throughout the year.

The Agency finances its operations through revenues, mainly from admission fees to museums and sites, and also from a Government subvention. The net revenue generated from admission fees by the Agency in 2019 reached €8,657,464 (2018: €8,957,154).

A government subvention of €5,199,998 (2018: €5,049,996) was received during the year to meet the Agency's administrative expenditure for the financial year ended 31 December 2019.

Furthermore, an amount of €253,836 (2018: €213,869) is paid to Government as rent on various sites and premises occupied by Heritage Malta. Following the changes in the Cultural Heritage Act 2002, Heritage Malta is to enter into guardianship deeds with the Department of Lands for the management of all the Museums and Historical sites under its remit. The Agency is to proceed with these agreements during the year 2020.

Further amounts were also allocated to Heritage Malta under Capital Vote XIV in the Government's financial estimates of 2019 covering the period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019. These include €2,275,000 (2018: €700,000) relating to improvements at museums and historical sites and restoration works and €2,000,000 relating to the acquisition of Villa Guardamangia under item 7033. Other funds amounting to €59,000 (2018: €70,000) were applied under Vote 7270 Restoration of Fort St. Angelo. Vote 5557 - fund for acquisition of contemporary Maltese articles received €58,351 (2018: €59,999). Vote 7376 did not receive any additional funds for 2019 (2018: €68,570). There were also additional funds of €299,999 (2018: €200,000) allocated to the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit out of which €99,592 for recurrent expenditure.

The Agency and the Group registered a deficit for the year of €1,347,814 (2018: surplus of €459,758) and €1,250,266 (2018: surplus of €492,265) respectively.

Noel Zammit
CEO

1. CAPITAL WORKS

During the year under review, works on the restoration of the back facade and all the timber apertures of the **Malta Maritime Museum** reached an advanced stage. The total value of the works is estimated at around €300,000. Works on the timber apertures will spill into 2020 and possibly 2021. Furthermore, research has continued on the configuration of the original yards and terrace along St Lawrence Street, which were backfilled in the 1950s, in order to establish a scheme to restore the area, hence also addressing humidity and structural issues affecting the rear area of the building due to water infiltration. The planning process is commencing. Work has also proceeded on the upgrading of the electrical systems in the museum.

At the **National Museum of Archaeology**, the contract for the second phase of the restoration of the courtyard, amounting to c. €200,000 has been signed and works have commenced. Works include the restoration of the enclosing wall on the remaining two sides including the side elevation which forms part of 138/139 Melita Street, the restoration or renewal of all the timber apertures overlooking the courtyard, the re-routing of the roof rain water system, and the application of bituminous membrane on the roof as necessary.

Works concerning the **Underground Valletta** site varied. Tests were carried out by the Water Services Corporation to ascertain that the water infiltration was clean rain water, and a temporary fence was erected in St John's Street (close to Merchant's Street). The internal cleaning of the underground spaces from debris and construction material was concluded. Water was also pumped out a number of times and pest control carried out. Safety equipment for people visiting the site such as safety helmets, boots, overshoes protective covers and head-lights were purchased to facilitate access for temporary opening during public service week on 28 and 29 September. Due to water infiltration in the first part of the tour, a temporary raised flooring structure was installed. A number of issues, foremost among which is water/sewage infiltration, have to be rectified prior to the site opening to the public on a regular basis.

During works to remove the soffit painting in the Piano Nobile corridors of the **Grand Master's Palace**, it transpired that in the immediate post WWII period (but without any official documentation) the original roof of wooden beams and limestone roofing slabs had been replaced with laid in situ concrete and RSJ beams beneath said concrete. The latter is severely spalling and requires replacement. On investigating all the corridors and the *Uccelliera* roof, the situation was found identical except the intersection between the Armoury and Short Corridors, and part of the latter where the original beams and slabs were found in situ because of the rooms built above at roof level. It was decided that all roofs were to be replaced as original, i.e. wooden

beams and limestone roofing slabs, respecting the former original locations as found and respecting the original roofing slab spans. Additional funds were sought to replace the entire ceiling slab of the corridors and reinstate the ceiling slab with beams and *xorok*.

In order to commence these works, a tower crane was ideal. Several trials were made in Neptune's Courtyard to assess stability for such a crane. However the terrain was found to be most inappropriate since the open courtyard was actually originally used as a quarry to build the same palace, and was therefore infilled with loose material. Thus a mobile crane remained the only option. The necessary permits were obtained to carry out said works and for the demolition of accretions within the *Uccelliera* area. A canopy was designed so that works could proceed even in inclement weather. Works are in progress.

The statue of Neptune in his namesake courtyard by Leone Leoni (c.1509-90) had to be removed since the ensuing works in the courtyard could have resulted in accidental damage if left in situ. This famous statue made by none other than one of the very best of Michelangelo Buonarroti's (1475-1564) contemporary artists and friend, whom he also portrayed on a medal commissioned by Pope Pius IV (1559-65). The statue actually portrays Admiral Andrea Doria (1466-1560), the Genovese Admiral in the service of the Holy Roman Empire. Leoni was also in Charles V, Philip II and the Habsburgs' service and actually their favourite portrait artist. Removing said statue was not an easy task. Three attempts were made so that damage would not be inflicted by the chosen methods. The statue had reached Malta prior to the Great Siege of 1565 as a gift to Grand Master de Valette (1557-68) by Andrea Doria's family, but laid in storage or displayed at Birgu (possibly in Fort St Angelo or the then new Grand Master's Palace built by de Valette which was destroyed during WWII) and was only set up in the early 17th century as the triumphal piece in Grand Master Alof de Wignacourt's (1601-22) aqueduct project, for which scheme the opportunity was availed to adapt the statue to symbolize the said grand master as King Neptune by introducing his coat of arms. The opportunity was availed to clean and restore the statue from beneath, including the pedestal, which is known to have had past integrity problems which were confirmed in the course of said restoration works by Heritage Malta conservators. Works will be concluded next year.

A number of rooms at roof level were cleared as much as possible from obsolete and unused items. Plans of these rooms, some of which date to the Order's period but had never been recorded, were drawn up. Some spaces were identified to be demolished so that the original Order's period configuration would be reinstated. Several meetings were held with MITA staff since practically all servers in the Palace either have to be removed or adapted to the new needs of the building. Most of these servers are in important rooms/areas and thus works have to be carried out to minimize or eliminate their impact. A report highlighting all the required works, acquisitions and restorations in order to tackle the Palace in a holistic manner was drawn up. As a first step, it was decided that works requiring modifications/corrections to the fabric such as masonry, marble and plaster works should be given priority so that these works would not interfere in the future visitor route which would require closing of certain areas.

Furthermore, considering the major infrastructural works in progress, an agreement was reached with the Office of the President to relocate their operations to San Anton Palace in August, and present a one-time opportunity to embark on a comprehensive restoration project for the entire Palace. Funds were secured to engage an Integrated Design Team, and the relevant tenders shall be prepared and issued in 2020 to enable commencement of the actual works. A number of inventoried items such as paintings, furniture and object d'art were moved to San Anton to embellish the temporary offices. Such items will be returned to the Palace at Valletta once works have been completed.

At the **Inquisitor's Palace**, targeted projects have been completed which contribute towards the restoration of the buildings and the enhancement of the visitor experience. Consultation with the relevant stakeholders are underway to enable the commencement of the restoration works on the back facade of the building. Waterproofing works were undertaken to ensure the water tightness of the structure and the restoration of other areas of the Palace. Despite routine maintenance, extents of the roof waterproofing needed replacement after 20 years. New membrane was later applied on large extents of the roof, excluding the roofs of the halls along the main façade and the Ruffo Apartments – these seem to be in better shape yet will eventually be replaced in line with the entire project. The manufacture of the reconstruction of the wooden panelling and furniture of the *Cancelleria*, based on historic documentation and site information, has also gathered pace, with the first elements nearing completion for installation. Work at the Cancelleria included removing of the old metal conduit pipework and rerouting of pipework for new electrical works which isolated the hall to one independent circuit, cleaning of the timber roofing and paintwork. An architectural survey of the palace has been commissioned to record the present configuration, following the extensive restoration programme of recent years, in view of designing a scheme to render most of the areas of the palace accessible and enhancing the ancillary facilities of the museum.

Following last year's works in the garden, much energy was this year also focused on the restoration of the Pannellini prison complex. This restoration included cleaning, plastic repair, pointing and the inevitable replacement of heavily deteriorated stonework. This included the careful cleaning of the floors, removing the superficial crust of dirt and debris, and eventually going into the various 19th and early 20th century interpolations to reinstate back the originally rock-hewn flooring. Along the way a number of features were discovered and explored. These include a trench in the first cell past the prison yard and a larger depression in the second cell. These were probably linked to gardening/ agricultural purposes prior to the conversion of the site into a prison complex.

The working group which was set up for **Għar Dalam National Park** continued with its work and developed the project further by working on a master plan and an interpretation strategy. A number of actions which were identified in the management brief started being addressed. On the other hand, the agency has also embarked on the refurbishment of the present reception area, including the modern display hall and support functions. Works shall commence in 2020. These include the upgrading of the external areas between the road and the museum.

Other studies were conducted, mainly focusing on the structural condition of the cave. A topographic survey of the cave, and a survey of Wied Dalam and Ta' Kaċċatura were carried out. These were followed by a geological survey of the rock structures above and beneath the cave using ground penetrating radar (GPR), a high resolution digital elevation model, georesistivity, ambient noise analysis, and seismic tomography. Results from these surveys, while providing new information, shall form the basis in establishing the actual structural interventions required and eventually enable the design of the new walkway in the cave.

Pipes and wiring were removed from the front of the building and rerouted to the side to make them less visible. A canal was built to divert rain water away from the facade which was being damaged because of humidity. Damaged masonry was repaired. Following the launch of a policy to reduce, reuse and recycle waste in 2018, the installation of dedicated bins made it possible for waste to be divided into three components at source. All the lamps and neon tubes were changed to LEDs to reduce the amount of electricity consumed. The old wiring system inside the cave was replaced and the number of lamps reduced considerably so as to reduce the amount of light in the cave as per Conservation Order, with the aim of extending the range of the endemic woodlouse *Armadillidium ghardalamensis*. A number of indigenous trees and shrubs were planted in the *Ġnien Dinja Waħda* area. As in previous years tree planting was given a priority because of the time required for vegetation to grow. A truck-load of Eucalyptus trunks were obtained and left on site to dry – a process that will be complete in about twelve months. The trunks will be used to build benches and other outdoor furniture used by teachers and students during educational visits.

Considerable whitewashing and pointing were carried out in various areas of the **National Museum of Natural History**. Emergency patching of roof membrane to limit water ingress was carried out in summer. Routine maintenance works on the southern bastions were carried out by the Restoration Directorate. An ATM was setup in the museum front courtyard in autumn. In March the museum started hosting the MTA tourist information office while their site at the *Torre dello Standardo* was being refurbished. More general maintenance works in the areas open to the visitors are being planned for next year. An ATM for public use was installed in the front courtyard.

Further investment was also made to enhance the visitor experience at **Fort St Angelo**. The main intervention focused on the restoration of the ship mast. This delicate and dangerous operation, in collaboration with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, included also several reconstructions of missing or damaged parts. The ship-mast was re-installed on 30 August, being one of the most iconic elements of the fort's skyline. Apart from the the standard roster of necessary maintenance, other works comprised the repair painting at Blondel 1 & 2 barrack rooms and the polverista, re-pointing of Blondel's Residence, repairs on D'Homedes' bastion's flank gate, installation of new furniture in the shop and reception, fixing of reception ramp metal gate and new outdoor lighting system for Officers' Lounge terrace and barbican, and a new lighting system for the lower area of the main lift. The relocation of SMOM's electricity cable from the fort's sub-

station, thus removing the cable presently attached to the rampart walls, is in process. Restoration works were also undertaken in St Anne's Chapel.

Several works were undertaken at **Fort Delimara**. These included the dismantling of modern additions to the fort's structure when it was in use as a farm from 1982 to 2005, the re-opening of No. 1 B.L. gun emplacement and dismantling of a wall blocking access to No. 2 B.L. gun emplacement's magazines, both done in July. In September the covering of manholes with steel hatches as a health and safety measure was completed together with temporary fixing works on the Main Gate in order to be fully opened once again. A general clean-up of the Fort was held in October in collaboration with the Cleansing and Maintenance Department in order to remove bulky construction waste and debris, including metal, wood and plastics.

Apart from routine maintenance, works at **Fort St Elmo** included the repair of damaged roof slabs in Museum 3 area, installation of wood covers around the cavalier roof and the main entrance of the fort, fitting of firefighting equipment lockers around the fort, installation of a new lighting system on Abercrombie bastion, the repair of St Anne's Church main door, installation of support equipment for the roof of the military garage, and the installation of ten glass doors for museum blocks and another for St Anne Church to create a buffer zone from the outside environment.

Maintenance of the protective shelter at **Tarxien Temples** was carried out by the contractor. The water drains of the protective shelter were extended to ensure that no rainwater runoff flows back towards the site. A rip in the protective shelter was observed late in the year, and this was repaired by the manufacturer. General maintenance and repairs on the walkway were conducted in-house. The necessary repairs and maintenance to the lighting of the walkway are ongoing. The curator's office is currently undergoing refurbishment.

Following the completion of the EEA project, the process is now underway to embark on the project to pedestrianize the road leading to the **Hypogeum's** entrance after agreement was reached with Local Council, Transport Malta and other relevant entities. Due to the delay in the issuance of the permits, works shall be executed in 2020. Maintenance of the HVAC system was carried out, as per maintenance agreement signed with the contractor, which has now expired. Further maintenance of the HVAC system will now be coordinated internally. Designs for an additional extractor fan in the store room behind the spiral staircase leading out of the site were prepared. These will not affect the environmental conditions within the site. This project is currently on hold pending completion of snags.

At **Hagar Qim and Mnajdra** a planning application was submitted for the reconstruction of the passage linking the two temples and the replacement of the security huts (and ancillary) facilities at the two temples. The design process was carried out in conjunction with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The tenders for these works shall be prepared for works to commence in 2020. Responsibility for the car park area around the Visitor Centre officially passed on to Heritage Malta, and discussions for the maintenance of this area have been initiated. Plans include the introduction of a zebra crossing to make passage of visitors from the Visitor Centre

to Hagar Qim safer, as well as the reintroduction of bicycle parking to encourage sustainable transport and active outdoor activities in the area. New outdoor seating was also installed at the visitor centre. This was designed to complement the modern design of the centre while providing seating for visitors. A small walkway for the south building at Mnajdra is being built. The reason for the introduction of this walkway is that visitor footfall has led to the degradation of the original floor surface inside this building and has resulted in very uneven and unsafe floors. An ATM for public use was also installed.

At **Ġgantija Temples** works focused on the design and implementation of the monitoring and actual intervention to the temple structures in view of removing/replacing the present scaffold propping structure. On the other hand, other initiatives are in hand to continue enhancing the visitor experience in the park. These were mainly focused on the submission of a planning application for the construction of the prehistoric huts. The design process was carried out in conjunction with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. Works shall commence on issuance of the relevant permits. In January, the olive grove adjacent to the Ġgantija Temples was pruned with assistance from the Department of Agriculture. Servicing of the weather station located in the immediate vicinity of the temples took place in February. The group of skilled workers loaned for the second consecutive year by the Malta Tourism Authority carried out rubble wall building and repairs in the close vicinity of the South Temple, as well as minor repairs to existing terrace walls in the Ġgantija grounds. For the second consecutive year, MGOZ provided assistance in the pruning of palm fronds as part of the fishermen assistance scheme. The palm trees within the archaeological park were given routine treatment against the red palm weevil. All palm trees in Gozo sites were re-registered with the Plant Health Directorate in April, as required by the same office.

An agreement for a collaborative project with *Ambjent Malta* was signed in September. The environment agency will provide Heritage Malta with a number of indigenous plant species to be introduced in the planters overlooking the back wall of the temples. In parallel to this project, discussions are underway for a new landscaping project in a large field overlooking the multi-purpose spaces at Ġgantija. This project will continue to enhance the existing landscape, be embellished with more indigenous flora, as well as offer adequate seating for visitors for relaxation and meditation within the archaeological park.

A small, removable, security hut was installed close to the temples plaza in August to offer shelter to security officers on duty during extreme weather. Repair works on the walkway inside the two temples were carried out during October. The contractor replaced all areas where the handrail is broken, while he shall be designing a more robust handrail structure to be replaced next year. Heritage Malta also applied for a second electricity meter at Ġgantija. Following installation, the electrical supply of the entire complex will be split into two areas, thus reducing overload on a single meter and eliminating related system failures. An ATM for public use was installed outside the Exit Building at the Ġgantija Temples in April.

A new directional map to guide visitors from the service entry to the proper entrance to Ġgantija was designed and installed. An information panel with general guidelines to visitors was designed

and installed in the reception area in July. A service agreement with a local recyclable waste collector was signed in August for the collection of recyclable waste from the site on a weekly basis. Improved street signage was discussed with the Xagħra Local Council, and new directional signs for Ġgantija Temples and Ta' Kola Windmill were installed in October.

At the **Old Prison**, a safety handrail was installed, providing safer access from the reception area to the prison cells. The main reception desk at the **Gozo Museum of Archaeology** was moved to a better location in the entrance hall in early July, with the gift shop area being enlarged. A bookcase was manufactured and installed behind the reception desk in October. The **Gozo Area Office** was permanently transferred to the ex-meeting room on the first floor of the Gozo Nature Museum at the onset of summer. The ex-office is now a boardroom, which can accommodate much larger groups, with a designated study and research area for the growing Gozo Reference Library. Meanwhile, maintenance and cleaning works were carried out in a loft on the top floor of the **Gozo Nature Museum**, with new shelving installed in order to rehabilitate the space into an archive. A spiral staircase is being manufactured in order to provide access to this loft.

Repairs on the water-proofing membrane at the **Gran Castello Historic House** were carried out. The old and dated UV filter on the glass of the façade windows was replaced with UV-filtering film of the latest specifications. A small store housing part of the ethnographic reserve collection was emptied from its contents, structural repairs were carried out and new shelving installed. General works were carried out on the Knights' Period **Marsalforn Fougasse**, in view of its opening to the public as a heritage site for the first time for an event on 7 July. After eliminating any safety hazards, the fougasse was cleaned from a mass of concrete that found its way into it during roadworks carried out in the street which runs above it, and timber apertures were repaired.

Various upgrading works were implemented at **St Paul's Catacombs**. These included various damaged parts of the underground fibreglass walkway and damaged AC units. Other works were also carried out on the sound system of the audio visual hall, alarms, security tagging system and CCTV. The alterations on the catacombs' lighting system also continued and should be finalised in 2020. The installation of a cover to shelter visitors and staff at the ticketing booth is required. A tender was issued in October for the design and installation of a cover using the existing metal framing. However bids were excessively high, and discussions are currently underway to find a viable solution. Five banners were installed along the site's perimeter fence to ensure that visitors approaching the site from either end of Sant'Agata Street can clearly identify the site's entrance.

The catacomb complex and public garden of **Abbatija Tad-Dejr** saw an increase in activity with the main project being the transformation of the old public garden above the catacombs into an allotment-style community garden. The twenty-two lots into which the garden was divided were made available through an Expression of Interest published in September. This attracted considerable interest, with all the allotments being divided between twenty interested persons.

Each and every tenant will be able to use this land for gardening and light agricultural use for a full calendar year, commencing on 1 January 2020.

Discussions on various aspects of the site also ensued with the Rabat Local Council. These concerned the removal of a set of old CCTV cameras installed around the site about ten years ago and the frequent occurrence of rubbish dumped around and within the site. The local council also offered to refurbish the public garden so it could be enjoyed by the community once again. Both Agency and Local Council agreed that plans will be drawn by the council's architect in constant discussion with the Agency. It was also decided that, should the community garden project be a success, part of the new public garden should be left for allotment-style lots.

This year also saw the start of preliminary works related to the access ramp for the garages on the side of the site. Being constructed within the Agency's property, numerous meetings and discussions were held between the architects, developers, the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta. Progress has been slow and focused almost entirely on the archaeological cleaning of the affected areas. This is still ongoing under the supervision of both the Agency and the Superintendence.

Following the issue of the development permit for the restoration of the farmhouse ruins at **Tas-Silġ** and the development of a small visitor centre, site clearance and archaeological investigations were carried out. The transfer of the small security room and removal of concrete slab gave way to fully fledged excavations within and around the farmhouse. This excavation was carried out in collaboration with the Department of Classics and Archaeology of the University of Malta, whose students carried out most of the work. Although the excavation progressed somewhat slower than expected, the results were indeed significant. It is, in fact, now possible to better understand the building phases of the front part of this ancient temple. The significance of these finds require the complete re-design of the original scheme, since this area cannot accommodate the required functions. Hence, the Agency is now studying alternative locations/solutions to accommodate the visitor centre. Plans for this new re-defined project are currently being discussed ahead of any required permit applications. Spearheaded by Heritage Malta and the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government, talks also ensued for the removal and diversion of the road running through the site. A number of meetings have been held so far.

The restoration and consolidation of the external fabric of the Chapel at **San Pawl Milqi** has been completed. Work continued with the design of the internals and other visitor-related facilities, which should commence in 2020. These shall include the total renewal of the current (plywood) floor to be replaced through a combination of wood planking and glass, which will also allow visitors to view the underground areas without the need to go down the ladder as present. Electrical, water and drain services will also be included, together with an accessible ramp and platform to enable access/viewing of the site. In the meantime, and following last year's tests on the internal wall paint, works continued on the acquisition of important useful for the completion of the project. Among these was the discovery of the original altar piece, found at the Mdina

Cathedral Chapter, which was photographed for reprint. The various pieces of the altar found scattered within the site have also been transferred to Bighi, where they were reassembled and the missing pieces identified.

Considerable works were carried out at **Ta' Bistra Catacombs**, primarily related to maintenance and upgrading of existing infrastructures. Most significant was the installation and re-configuration of new and existing water pumps to mitigate water infiltrations. This system is currently being tested. Work also ensued on the upgrade of the existing security and CCTV systems; ideal solutions are being sought for the integration and replacement of the current systems. Also ongoing are repair works on the two passenger lifts of the site, which inevitably impinge on the accessibility of the site for people with mobility impairment. Work also started to embellish the site's garden and surroundings. The internal garden was replanted with new trees, while new trees and shrubs were also planted in the planters along the parking area. These were donated and planted by *Ambjent Malta*, who will also be donating around ninety more trees for the abandoned central field. Works are currently underway to install water facilities prior to the planting of trees.

Works at the **Għajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths** focused on the backfilling of the *natatio* and adjacent trench. This was the result of two years of discussions, the results of which are an official checklist that needs to be carried out in preparation for backfilling, and a clear methodology compiled by the Agency's specialists. This backfill will hopefully protect the *natatio* from further damage for years to come until the necessary funds for its complete conservation are acquired. A fresh methodology is currently also being discussed to backfill the mosaic and tiles pavements of the site, in a bid to dramatically slow down their deterioration. Moreover, following the cleaning of the open water reservoir to the west of the site, it was felt that it is prime time for the old boundary wall to be dismantled and replaced. Options are currently being discussed in preparation for the required permit applications.

Grass at the **Bidnija Olive Grove** was trimmed twice to prevent fire hazards. A number of signs were also installed to prevent unwanted use of the site; use that may jeopardize the safety of the grove and surrounding archaeological remains. A number of panels were also installed at **Ras ir-Raheb**, giving information on the site and warnings of the perils around it.

With respect to **national monuments**, preliminary studies have commenced on the restoration of the Memorial Bell monument in the Grand Harbour due to the extensive problems which are manifesting themselves in the structural elements. Works are envisaged to be carried out in 2020.

EU CO-FUNDED PROJECTS

ERDF 05.019: MUŻA – The National Community Art Museum: works mainly concentrated on the snagging and closing off the final phases of the MUZA EU-funded elements, foremost among which was the building management system and the completion of the grand staircase. On the other hand, ancillary phases to the project have proceeded, including the work in Pjazza De Valette, the reserve storage area, furniture for the back office areas and various other relatively minor initiatives/ improvements.

ERDF.05.022 – The Establishment of a Regional Museum for Gozo: Following the discovery of the Roman quarry in and around the work site, the project had to undergo a complete re-design process. The ancient quarry will be integrated into the new museum experience. In view of this major change which prohibited excavation of the open grounds around the ex-school building, the architectural team reviewed the entire museum spaces and proposed a new visitor flow, with the entire ex-school building being earmarked for the permanent display areas. A new contract was signed between the Ministry for Gozo (leading the ERDF project) and the architectural firm which has now engaged the design services of Studio Adrien Gardère, based in Paris. A new application to the Planning Authority has been submitted in November and works are hopefully due to physically continue on site in 2020. The interior design of the gallery spaces and interpretation areas are also at an advanced stage. This project is being managed in collaboration with the Ministry for Gozo.

Research for the permanent display was ongoing during the year, to reflect the changes in the internal layout of the museum and a number of revised themes. The curatorial team met Adrien Gardère in March. Consequently, two workshops were held on 23/24 May, 31 October/1 November. Progress meetings were held on a regular basis throughout the year.

Heritage Malta also collaborated with the Digital Arts Department at the University of Malta for the creation of digital content (mainly animations and audio-visuals) by third year students. The content was earmarked for eventual integration in the permanent displays of the Gozo Museum. Some students also worked on branding and logo design.

ERDF 05.016 – The Grand Master’s Palace Regeneration Project: The main actions revolved around the restoration of the Piano Nobile artworks, in particular the wall painting, soffit and lunettes. Restoration on eighteen out of a series of nineteen lunette paintings depicting salient Order of St John naval engagements against Ottoman and Barbary Coast naval units, all dating to the 18th century, was commenced by the contracted company. One of this series of historical lunette paintings was restored in the recent past by Heritage Malta. To date, six have been restored and another seven are ongoing restoration.

The restoration of the vast surface of mural paintings/decorations embellishing the Piano Nobile corridors was likewise continued this year as part of the same project. The project commenced last year with the documentation of the whole corridors, which includes the marble floor, the

painted wall decorations and the painted soffits by Nasoni. Restoration works commenced this year on the Prince of Wales corridor murals in which various interesting original schemes were observed. Decisions were made in tandem with Heritage Malta as to what to be retained/conserved etc. All soffit components in the Prince of Wales, Short and Armoury Corridors were dismantled, the 1980s plywood and jablo support removed, appropriately cleaned on both sides and canvas lacuna infilled in most components.

Further to these soffit components by Nasoni, Heritage Malta curatorial staff identified several other components which were in storage and never re-installed since being dismantled in WWII for safekeeping. These included the whole soffit of the Uccelliera and the two corner soffits between the Armoury and Short corridors and the Short and Prince of Wales corridor, the latter missing around 30% of the original, which will be re-done by Heritage Malta painting conservators. Another soffit, depicting the Apotheosis of Fra Raymond de Puy, was also found in storage and its original location identified being a room off the Prince of Wales Corridor. A yet another smaller soffit was found depicting astronomical instruments with its original location also identified. These latter two will eventually be restored in the future after the conclusion of the current works.

Furthermore, the main tender for the turnkey works and backbone infrastructure was issued but the call had to be cancelled due to the lack of adequate bidders. In parallel, the detailed design of the visitor experience and interpretation continued at a steady pace. The ERDF part of this project is being led by the Restoration Directorate in close collaboration with Heritage Malta.

Following the completion of the major works on the **EEA (Norwegian Funds) Financial Mechanism 2009-14: New Environmental Management System project for the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum** (c.€900,000), snagging is still ongoing and discussions between Heritage Malta, the Department of Contracts and the contractor are being held in order to rectify a number of faults, particularly damages to the paint work of the steel structure overlying the site. In the meantime, minor remedial works are being carried out by staff from the Projects Office.

On the other hand, a project proposal '**The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage**' has been approved and granted €1,713,200 **through EEA/Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014-2021**. Through this project the exhibition space within the museum will be increased to 1629 sq m from the current 1086 sq m and includes also the digitisation of 2,600 assets in the collection. The main civil works tender covering the major structural interventions in the former Naval Bakery has been issued and works should commence on site beginning 2020. These works are estimated to cost over €1million.

2. EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

2.1 EXHIBITIONS

Culhat al Belt: Sette Giugno 1919-2019 was held on the occasion of the centenary of the *Sette Giugno*, at the Parliament Building, Valletta, with the cooperation of the National Archives of Malta. It explored the local and international context, the direct causes leading to the revolts, and their consequences. It was inaugurated by the Deputy Prime Minister and Speaker of the House of Representatives on 5 June and continued until 31 August, following which it was transferred to the National Museum of Archaeology from 21 September until 31 December. A number of activities were organised in connection with the exhibition. A specific guided tour of the exhibition was held for Heritage Malta members at the Parliament on 20 July, a number of educational activities were held for *Skola Sajf* students, a guided tour around the exhibition and the most important sites in Valletta featuring in the *Sette Giugno* riots was held for holders of the Heritage Malta Senior Passports on 12 November, while another tour of the exhibition was held with descendants of the victims on 20 December. The exhibition was also accompanied with a fully illustrated catalogue, worksheets and other educational material for children, and other exhibition merchandise.

Behind Closed Doors: Fort St Angelo and the Royal Navy 1906-1979 was held at Fort St Angelo from to 8 September. This exhibition focused on the period when the fort was administered directly by the Royal Navy from 1906 until the departure of the last British military forces in 1979, and was organised to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of Freedom Day. A number of activities were organised in connection with the exhibition. A lecture and curator's tour were held on 3 and 26 May, a 'Memory Box' public discussion was organised with Royal Navy veterans on 21 June, a Royal Navy Harbour Cruise was held on 19 July, a special tour by the last Maltese officer to leave the fort (Joseph German) was held on 7 August, while a specific guided tour was held for Heritage Malta members on 30 August. The exhibition was also accompanied with a fully illustrated catalogue, worksheets and other educational material for children, and specific exhibition merchandise.

Ta' Ġawhar Tower – Gold, Bread and Fire (Espresso Exhibition Series No. 7) was held at the National Museum of Archaeology from 28 June to 28 September. It focused on the Ta' Ġawhar tower located on a stretch of land between Ħal Safi and Ħal Far. The aim of this exhibition was to show how the excavations were carried out at this intriguing site, what was discovered, and what is known about the site's beginning and end. Visitors were also able to learn about the new studies currently being undertaken by Heritage Malta in an attempt to enhance further the knowledge about this site and the archaeological potential within it and its artefacts. All the artefacts recovered from this site were displayed along with original excavation sketches and notes and also other archival documentation about the site. The exhibition was accompanied with a leaflet with detailed information on the exhibits and on their historical context.

The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th century Malta (Espresso Exhibition Series No. 8) was held at the Inquisitor's Palace from 4 September to 31 December. This exhibition is an unprecedented attempt at presenting archaeological materials recovered during the 1998 excavation of a cess-pit and from later recoveries in the prison area. Specifically the exhibition highlights a group of early porcelain, which allowed visitors to explore the culturally refined habitus characteristic of the Inquisitor's establishment in 18th century Malta. This was the first time in Malta that an exhibition was specifically dedicated to the subject of post-medieval archaeology. The exhibition was accompanied by the publication of a leaflet with detailed information on the exhibits and on their historical context. Regular outreach activities have been organised to draw attention to this event, including tours for Heritage Malta Members, for the Archaeological Society, for University students and academic staff of the Malta Historical Students Association and of the Department of Archaeology.

The exhibition **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi** was retained at the Gozo Area Exhibition Hall in the Cittadella throughout the year due to its increasing popularity.

The Neolithic **embracing couple display** was once again displayed temporarily on the occasion of St Valentine's Day at the ground floor foyer of the National Museum of Archaeology from 11 to 17 February. The statuette from Tarxien Temples is the only artefact from Malta dating to the Maltese Neolithic period which shows human emotions immortalised through artistic expression.

Preparations were underway to draft the necessary policies and issue a call for temporary exhibitions for the first programme of exhibitions at **MUŻA, the National Community Art Museum** for next year. This ranges from curated exhibitions, to community based artistic projects and artistic residencies. The call was officially launched during MUŻArtisti, an event for the artistic community which took place on 28 August, and closed on 1 November. Sixteen submissions were received; these are being vetted and the final exhibitions calendar will be issued early in 2020.

Loan of artefacts for temporary exhibitions

A number of artefacts were loaned for exhibitions held by other stakeholders, including **Music in Malta – From Prehistory to Vinyl**, organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* at the Mdina Cathedral Museum from 13 April to 16 June, and for the exhibition **The Art of Anton Inglott (1915-1945)** held at *Il-Ħaġar* Museum in Victoria from 19 October to 27 November.

2.2 PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITIONS ABROAD

Carthago, The immortal myth – an exhibition on the city of Carthage, organised by the *Parco Archeologico del Colosseo* at the Coliseum, Rome, from 27 September to 29 March 2020. Heritage Malta is participating in this exhibition in which visitors will embark on a journey starting from the foundation of the Phoenician East to the re-founding of the new *Colonia Iulia Concordia Carthago* touching upon important events in the rise of Christianity, the new religion of which Carthage would become an important centre of influence. The goal of the exhibition is to help familiarize the public with the series of historical events that unite the two great powers of the

ancient world, Carthage and Rome. This large-scale exhibition is displaying extraordinary objects on loan from various international archaeological museums in Italy, Tunisia, Lebanon, Spain and Malta. Heritage Malta is lending the famous Punic bilingual Cippus and six Punic inscribed ceramic shards from the Tas-Silg Archaeological Sanctuary in Marsaxlokk.

The exhibition of one painting – The portrait of Catherine the Great with St George’s Ribbon, at the Ekaterininsky Hall, Grand Palace State Museum Tsaritsyno, Moscow, Russia, from 18 August to 12 January 2020, featured the full length portrait of Catherine the Great, usually displayed in the Ambassadors Room of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta. It is the only artefact on display in the exhibition organised on the occasion of the inauguration for public viewing of the Ekaterininsky Hall and its adjacent wing and for the 290th anniversary of the Great Empress birthday. The painting by the renowned Russian artist Dimitri Grigorevich Levitzky (1735-1822) was painted in 1787 and was given as a diplomatic gift by Catherine the Great to Grand Master Emmanuel de Rohan Polduc in 1790 to show her gratitude for assistance received by the Order of St John.

Coming back home, an exhibition to mark the 80th anniversary from the death of the great Russian architect Nikolai Krasnov, at the Alexander Solzhenitsyn House of Russia Abroad, Moscow, Russia, from 1 December to 31 January 2020.

2.3 EVENTS

Apart from the above, Heritage Malta organised, participated in or hosted more than 270 cultural events, ranging from lectures to heritage trails, seminars, temporary exhibitions, re-enactments, and others (refer to Appendix I – Calendar of Events). Particularly worthy of mention are the following:

All the museums and sites managed by the agency were open free of charge to the public during various open days during the year. Likewise, admission was reduced to a nominal fee on several occasions in various museums and sites, in particular during the respective cultural events organised by Local Councils such as *Birgufest*, or free on national events such as the *Notte Bianca*. All Heritage Malta sites in Malta and Gozo were also open free of charge on 21 September for the occasion of Public Service Week, which also included guided tours of the Valletta Underground Experience for the very first time on 28-29 September. Tens of thousands took full advantage of such opportunities. A number of events were specifically organised for Heritage Malta members. A number of underprivileged groups were granted free access, while an increasing number of local groups (local councils, parish groups, retired teacher groups, scouts, etc) took advantage of the €1.00 scheme throughout the year.

All four Citadel museums, including the Cittadella Visitor Centre, were similarly active for the festivals of *Lejl Imkebbes*, Gozo Alive, and the Cittadella Arts Festival, while an open day was organised at Ta’ Kola Windmill in conjunction with the celebrations of *Jum ix-Xagħra* in April, when the windmill’s vanes were manually operated after each tour.

Several re-enactments were staged at Fort St Angelo by HRGM throughout the year. A full blown similar event by a number of re-enactment and featuring groups all different periods of Maltese military history (from medieval to the Second World war) was held at Fort St Elmo on 14 April. The National war Museum also commemorated the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II and the 101st anniversary of Remembrance Day in November. A series of successful screening of documentaries followed with open discussions on the natural environment at the National Museum of Natural History. For the first time a number of guided tours and open days were organised at the gardens of Villa Frere. A very successful 'Mortem – A Roman's Last Journey' event was held at St Paul's Catacombs in February.

Taste History

Continuous improvements were registered regarding the Taste History project. The museum hosted over fifty Taste History events, including one in Gozo on 13 April. It was given a local twist and named *A Dinner with De Soldanis*, paying homage to this great 18th century intellectual from Rabat, Gozo, with the menu being based upon De Soldanis' own records of dinners offered to his circle of scholarly friends. The event started with an introduction at the Gran Castello Historic House, and proceeded with a sit-down three-course meal at the Cittadella Cultural Centre.

A number of promotional dinners were organized with various entities, including the Malta Tourism Authority and various DMCs. This in view of a stronger drive to outreach key players in the tourism sector which mostly deal with booked groups and events. In May the Taste History team represented Heritage Malta at the Imex conference in Frankfurt and at the world's largest tourism fair held at Berlin, sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority. The response was immense; 4,500 visitors visited the stand and interacted with museum staff as part of the Malta Maritime Museum's outreach programme. A Taste History promotional dinner was also organised in Istanbul in June through a collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority. The dinner hosted over 80 bloggers and influencers. The market analytics post dinner reached a 100 million clients: a first for Taste History. In October the curator represented the museum during a specifically organised event to promote Taste History in Beijing (China) and Singapore. Museum staff were also part of the Malta stand at another two major fairs: World Travel Market in London and the Institute of Business Travel Management at Barcelona, both sponsored by the Malta Tourism Authority.

3. COLLECTIONS AND RESEARCH

A considerable number of cultural heritage items and natural history specimens were acquired for the national collection during the year. A full list (including purchases, donations and transfers) can be found in **Appendices 3, 4 and 5** respectively. Following the taking over of the title of a number of properties in 2018, during the year under review Heritage Malta also formalised the management agreement regarding the gardens of Villa Frere in Pietà and officially took over the shelters and cisterns of Underground Valletta, the Bidnija olive grove, the parking facility at Ғaġar Qim, the Roman villa of Ta' Kaċċatura and a WWII pillbox at Wied Dalam, Birżebbuġa, and was assigned responsibility for the management of thirty national monuments as established through the official notice on the Government Gazette of 22 October.

The agency also entered into a promise of sale regarding Villa Guardamangia, which apart from being historically important in itself as a typical summer residence of the eighteenth century, was also the residence of the future Queen Elizabeth II during her sojourn in Malta from 1949 to 1951. The property, covering 1,500 square metres and scheduled as Grade II by the Planning Authority, consists of eighteen rooms, stables, war shelters, a large garden and other facilities. Discussions are also underway for guardianship deeds regarding other cultural heritage properties.

Heritage Malta is also processing its own vision for Cottonera and actively participating in the Intangible Cultural heritage Board responsible for nominations to UNESCO. It was an important player in the events leading to the official nomination of *Il-Ftira*: The culinary art and culture of flattened sourdough in Malta as Malta's first inscription for the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in March.

In total ninety-five **donations** (including 686 items) were registered during the year. Worthy of particular mention is Gabriel Caruana's (1929-2018) 48-piece large mural ceramic decoration entitled 'Energy Field' by the Ministry for Energy and Water Management, Carmelo Borg Pisani's portrait painting of Manoel Mizzi by Dr Albert Ganado, the scaled model of HMS *Penelope* by Brian Franklin and Peter Lever from South Africa, Vol. I of Abbe de Vertot's *History of the Knights of Malta* (1728) by Mr and Mrs Hegerty from Ireland, an oil on canvas painting of John Hookham Frere by Joseph Said, and a collection of 367 photographic negatives and photographs by Dr Peter Shield.

Moreover, the agency also invested in the National Collection through the direct purchase of a number of objects. Eighty-two **purchases** were registered, the most significant of which are certainly the sculpture of St Rose of Lima by Melchiorre Gafà, a pencil and watercolour drawing of St Paul's bay by Edward Lear, a manuscript entitled *Blocco di notamenti 1798-1799* by Vincenzo Borg (Brared), a manuscript signed and annotated by Giorgio Mitrovich on the history of Malta, and other manuscripts also by Giorgio Mitrovich.

Maximum use was once more made of the budget allocation for **Modern and Contemporary Art Acquisitions** (€60,000) through the Contemporary Fund 5557. This entails a detailed process of research and external consultation leading to a short listing exercise of artists and art works, contacting artists or artists' families to select works and discuss prices. Ten works of art were acquired, the full list of which is found in **Appendix 2**.

The acquisition of artworks and other objects of interest for the **Gozo Museum** through Line Vote 5824 took place throughout the year. The Line Vote is administered by the Ministry for Gozo but works are purchased following recommendations by Heritage Malta. Twenty-eight acquisitions were registered, including the remarkable *Solenne Processione Vaticana del Corpus Domini* by Salvatore Busuttil. The acquired works are listed in **Appendix 4**.

The Collections Management Department continued with its incessant work to catalogue extant collections and newly acquired objects (transfers, donations and purchases), updating of inventories of long-term loaned artefacts in public buildings, checking their state of conservation, and providing artworks as required where possible according to requests.

Following the previous years' exercise of the inventorisatation and cataloguing of all objects in ministries and various Government offices, during the year under review an effort was made to maintain updated records of such inventories through liaison with the public officers responsible within the relevant departments. It was noted that several ministries are in fact following the correct procedure and have notified, sometimes in advance, of the purchasing or transfer of artefacts registered in the National Collection.

Numerous site visits were made to San Anton, Verdala and the Grand Master's Palace to compile a comprehensive inventory of all the artefacts, including State gifts, found within these palaces. A 300-page document was prepared in which all details and location of such items within these palaces were listed. This document was used by the out-going President as a formal hand-over document to the incoming President which officially took place at San Anton on 29 March. More site visits to the Grand Master's Palace were carried out to assist in the transfer of items from the Grand Master's Palace to San Anton Palace. This was due to the transfer of the Office of the President to San Anton Palace because of the restoration works being carried out in the Grand Master's Palace. A number of site visits were also made to Auberge d'Aragon in relation to the exercise of relocating items from the various ministries to their original location at the Grand Master's Palace.

Moreover a total of 123 conservation projects were registered. These included the conservation of 765 artefacts.

The area around the **Bidnija Olive Grove** was also formally transferred to Heritage Malta by the Lands Authority. This meant that all the different facets of the project connected with the site could be officially kick-started. To this effect Heritage Malta signed a historic tripartite agreement

through which it is joining forces with the University of Malta and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage to conduct research and excavations within the site. The agreement was signed on 17 October. The core team that will manage this aspect of the OLEA Project has been recently set up and has met for the first time in December. A similar agreement is being signed with the Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change to protect and promulgate the millennial trees within the site. Tolerance agreements with all the current tenants within the transferred land have all been drafted and the terms are currently being discussed with each and every individual.

Work was carried out to make the interpretation of **Ta' Bistra Catacombs** more accessible and better understood. Audio-guides were installed at the site. Together with new brochures, these offer an unprecedented understanding of the catacombs and provide a better experience for all visitors. Other work on interpretation included an exercise through which photographs of the ridge taken during the excavations of the 1930s have been identified and placed in relation to the surviving rock formations. Discussion are currently underway on how best to use this within the interpretative tools of the site. The most important exercise in interpretation was, however, the event *Niftakar Ta' Bistra* which was held on site on 15 September. Apart from giving free access to the site, this event was created to gather the collective memory of the public. It was a great success and more than an hour of interviews were collected from six individuals who had experiences and memories to share about the site and the area in which it is located. Apart from these memories, the donations of a number of oil lamps collected decades ago from one of the tombs within the complex, as well as a copy of Indri's (the farmer occupying the site) own signature, also have to be registered. These will be integrated in the display and will enrich the understanding of the area's modern history.

A number of discussions with the local community and stakeholders also ensued. The Mosta Local Council was essential with its help during the *Niftakar Ta' Bistra* event and also offered a space for an article promoting the site in their magazine. Discussions are also being held with the administrators of the Mosta Dome regarding the possibility of selling tickets to the site in a bid to increase visitor numbers.

The most important aspect for the **Domvs Romana** regarded interpretation and accessibility of information. Although strategically located, the visitor flows within the site remain significantly low, especially when one considers the amount of people that make use of Rabat's main bus terminus, located just in front of the site. To mitigate this, a number of small information panels are being installed around the boundaries of the site, with the aim of channelling visitors to this important site. Meanwhile, alternative solutions of publicity are being studied.

Works also progressed significantly on the study of the bread loaf form Ta' Gawhar. These included a number of scientific studies that are shedding new light on this very important artefact. Most analysis are still ongoing and should be ready in the course of 2020. Extensive footage of the site was also obtained as part of the documentation process and for the production of a number of short audio-visuels. Once ready, these will provide more information to be used in the display of this carbonized bread within the interpretation of the Domvs Romana.

Meanwhile, the team collaborated with the National Museum of Archaeology in the setting up of a specific exhibition on the site and its artefacts; the first time all the objects were displayed together in a dedicated exhibition.

Also essential for the further understanding of the Domvs as a museum was an interview carried out with Mrs Lina Cardona, whose father was the custodian of the St Paul's Catacombs and had obtained permission to relocate his whole family to the Domvs Romana during the Second World War. Mrs Cardona's childhood memories of her years living within the walls of the Domvs Romana are a valuable source of information. Discussions are underway to see how these can be integrated within the current display.

Considerable efforts were also made to improve the environmental and conservation conditions of the site. A number of data loggers have been permanently installed in various areas to study the climatic changes that happen within this structure during the various parts of the day and year. In November these were also studied by students of the University College London's (UCL) Institute of Sustainable Heritage, who investigated the various issues with the building and how the structure and the archaeological remains within it are being affected by the climatic and environmental conditions. Their recommendations will be imperative to help conserve this site and the artefacts held within it. Meanwhile, works have started to replace all the doors in the back and road-facing facades. These will provide a better buffer than that presently offered, will be easier to operate and will be more in line with the original design of this protected structure. Also important for the conservation of the site will be the installation of an HVAC system, the installation of which should take place next year so that the various studies conducted by the UCL team can be taken into account when deciding on the technical specifications of the same.

The small project to plant indigenous plants and shrubs within the front garden started with the planting of about forty acanthus plants. It is envisaged that these will take a couple of years to get established. The section was also consulted on one major project around the site that will see the widening and rebuilding of the road from Wesgħet il-Mużew down to the Mtarfa roundabout. Members of the section's team are in constant consultation with the Superintendence so that any works carried out do not impinge negatively on the existing archaeological sites, and any new features discovered during this major project are duly noted, researched and documented.

Finally, the *Melite Civitas Romana* Project officially started during the year. The agreement between Heritage Malta, the University of South Florida (USF) and a group of independent archaeologists under the name of Intercontinental Archaeology (IA) was signed after lengthy discussions, and the preliminary works were carried out through the year. These included the removal and pruning of a number of trees in the Agency's property beneath Howard Garden so that research could be carried out unhindered. Discussions meanwhile ensued to prepare all the required permits for the removal of the solid Globigerina wall currently delineating the site's western boundary and its replacement with a permanent fence that incorporates the field beyond the present boundary line; also the Agency's property.

On site, the project's official studies focused on two particular strands; 3D modelling and remote sensing. The first was carried out by the team from USF, who scanned the entire site and more than sixty objects from its collection. These are currently being processed and will eventually be made available to the Agency and the general public. The remote sensing was carried out as part of IA's remit and included geophysical investigations of various areas within the project limits. The results of this study have made it possible to start identifying potential excavation areas that may yield very important data for the understanding of the houses already exposed and the ancient city. The results of this first season will be presented to the public through a lecture organised by the Archaeological Society of Malta in December and at the Roman Archaeology Conference being held in Split in April 2020.

The **Abbatija Tad-Dejr** catacombs benefited from the research and excavation works being carried out at the Domvs Romana as part of the *Melite Civitas Romana* Project. The catacombs were scanned with a 3D laser scanner by a team from the IDEX department of the University of South Florida, who will produce a detailed 3D model.

The department was also heavily involved in both **Ta' Kaċċatura** and the **Għar Dalam National Park**. Works were mostly research-based and included the finalising and checking of the area's topographical and site's archaeological surveys, which finally provide a detailed digital plan of the actual remains on site. This compliments the 3D models created last year in conjunction with the University of Malta's Department of Classics and Archaeology.

The team also attempted to gather further information on the site. These included a request made by Heritage Malta to acquire digital copies of Thomas Ashby's photographs of the site's excavation from the British School at Rome. However, after months of discussions, this request was turned down. The team was also contacted by Mrs Ann Kraunsoe, whose father was briefly stationed at Bengħisa during the Second World War. She was kind enough to provide copies of her father's diary of his stay in Malta, which included a visit to Ta' Kaċċatura, and donated a couple of pottery sherds that he collected during the same visit.

Most work was carried out beyond the boundaries of Ta' Kaċċatura but within the remits of the Għar Dalam Park. Apart from the regular meetings and consultations, these included the complete excavation of a room found filled with spoil from the cave. This was carried out in two seasons (January/February and September/October) and uncovered possibly what appears to have originally been an apiary, the internal space of which was filled with material from the cave containing around twenty boxes of animal bone, *breccias*, pottery and other archaeological material. These have been transferred to the National Museum of Natural History, where they are being cleaned and studied. The preliminary results have been presented to the public by the senior curators of both departments in an event called 'Brushing Time' held on 22 November, during which the public was given explanations of what happened and what was found, as well as being given the opportunity to handle some of the actual artefacts in a post-excavation exercise.

Finally, the department was involved in the acquisition of geophysical and remote sensing services above and around Għar Dalam cave and Borġ in-Nadur. These studies will be identifying elements such as natural fissures, voids, thicknesses of the various geological materials and depths, all of which will form the basis of other studies like the structural assessments, archaeological investigations and new walkway designs. This work started in November and is being monitored by members of the field team.

Ras ir-Raġheb remains one of the possible recipients of a research project currently being drafted by Dr Amelia Brown from the University of Queensland.

Tas-Silġ was considerably active in comparison to other years. General maintenance works involved repairs to conservation retaining walls built to protect some of the archaeological sections. Work also continued on the first draft of the site's management brief, which has been finalised and is currently being amended for presentation next year. The most pressing work was, however, concerned the excavation of the site, both past and present. The *Missione Archeologica a Malta* reached out to Heritage Malta in a bid to improve relations. A meeting between the senior curator and the directors of the *Missione* was held in June, during which it was agreed to explore ways of collaboration, particularly on the site's interpretation. Also agreed on was an open day organised between Heritage Malta and the *Missione*, with the collaboration of the *Istituto Italiano di Cultura*. This was planned for 24 November but had to be postponed to early 2020 due to inclement weather. This will indeed be the first open day organised by the *Missione* for the general public.

Progress was registered at **St Paul's Catacombs**. The tombs within catacomb 8 that still contained human remains were covered over again using the same technology in which they were originally sealed. This with the exception of five tombs that were covered by Perspex so the bones can be visible to the general public. Works are also in progress to draft a long-term conservation plan, through which the long term effects of the new project and increased visitor numbers can be assessed vis-à-vis the state of the site before the intervention. Also in view of conservation monitoring, the data loggers installed within the exhibition area were still in place and used to gather data to support other mitigation works carried out at the end of the year. These include the installation of a sliding door to lower air currents and the installation of a dehumidification system to create a more stable environment within the exhibition area.

Efforts were also made to constantly improve on the display and information provided. New scientific analysis on some of the artefacts discovered during the site's excavation have yielded invaluable information that will be integrated and made available within the site's display. The facial reconstruction of one of the skeletons found there was also concluded. Discussions are currently ongoing to decide how this should be displayed. After years of work, the 3D room was also opened for use by the general public during specific days. This will eventually be opened daily in 2020, once the CCTV system within this room is concluded. Next year should also see the installation of a further two work stations containing the site's excavation and interpretation material within the same 3D models.

The site has also been active on the education front, with educational events in every open day and event. Members of the department have also been essential in the design of a school competition through which schools are invited to do a project on a cultural heritage asset within the school or the school's locality. This proposal was finalised and is pending approval. Work also continued on the installation of the excavation pit, for which the activity book is currently being designed.

An archaeologist was employed in April as the first employee to form Heritage Malta's **Field Team**. The specific objective of this team is to oversee, coordinate and carry out the Agency's archaeological fieldwork. This new team was placed under the responsibility of the department's senior curator. Although new, this team managed to carry out a considerable amount of work that would otherwise have to be outsourced. This work can be summarised as follows:

- Drafted Heritage Malta's digital and GIS requirements.
- Carried out the complete excavation of the 'spoil room' at Għar Dalam and conducted various monitoring jobs of works within the same site.
- Co-ordinated a remote sensing exercise at Għar Dalam and Borġ in-Nadur
- Surveyed two areas of the Grand Master's Palace in Valletta.
- Assisted a cleaning exercise at the Hal Saflieni Hypogeum.
- Planned and obtained permits for preliminary investigations prior to works at the Agency's new Head Office site at Ta' Qali.
- Assisted in excavations at the Xaghra Stone Circle.
- Assisted and co-ordinated excavation works to be carried out at Xrobb l-Għagin.
- Directed and supervised excavations at Tas-Silġ.
- Started the post-excavation processes of Heritage Malta's most recent excavations.

The department was also involved in a number of other projects and tasks. The first of these was the setting up of a working group to investigate Heritage Malta's sites Dark Tourism potential. This working group finalised a working document which was presented to the Agency's administration and is currently being discussed for implementation.

Communication with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage also continued to improve with a number of meetings and discussions carried out throughout the year. Most importantly, the two entities have formally agreed to form a working group, formed by a representative of the Superintendence and the department's senior curator as Heritage Malta's representative, whose remit will be to join forces and specialisations to study and publish excavations carried out by the two entities. Both also agreed to collaborate on a number of projects, including a project proposed by University of Leiden to carry out analysis on bones from Punic, Roman and Late Roman contexts. This should provide a scientifically tested chronological sequence and provide valuable information on our ancestors. Although both parties agreed to participate in this project together, the latter has only recently been submitted for funding. Should this be obtained the project is expected to start in 2021.

In summer Mr Mark Napier was enrolled as Coordinator Curatorial Support at the **National Museum of Natural History**, assisting in both museum and field work. Curatorial staff continued to provide support to the Gozo Museum Project, specifically identification and preparation of fossil material. Ongoing curatorial support was also provided to the ESPLORA NATURA project.

In November the remaining bird collections of the Old University Museum at the Argotti Gardens in Floriana were transferred to the museum. Some specimens require intensive conservation work. As the collection continues to grow, a third room was converted into storage for the owls, ravens and some of the larger species (pelicans), while another adjacent room is being cleared and prepared to take more specimens. After a sojourn of over forty years at the National Museum of Natural History, the Egyptian Mummy was transferred to the National Museum of Archaeology.

A database system was created to include and update the higher botanical collections (herbaria) including the collections of Paul Portelli, Paul Sammut and Dr Carmelo De Lucca. The lower plant collections were also updated and work is ongoing to upload and update the Bankart Collection.

A number of confiscated stuffed and mounted specimens were deposited at the museum by the Police (Administrative Law Enforcement) and by the Customs Department. The full list can be found in Appendix 3. Numerous specimens of snails and other mollusca were presented to the museum by the volunteers. A small number of local insects, mainly *Cicada orni* and a small selection of beetles were presented by Mr Adrian Agius, while a Spoonbill, Honey Buzzard and a Scops Owl were presented to the museum by Carmen and Ronald Forder in October.

Other work on the collections included the topping up, fluid change of the wet collections (including relaxing, re-setting and preparation of new material), the fixing of broken and unattached lichen specimens to backing material Bankart Lichen collection, and conservation on the De Lucca Entomology collection. It is planned that by the end of 2021 the entire latter collection will be properly conserved, documented, digitised and incorporated in the main collection. The sampling, setting and identifying entomological specimens collected from the museum roof-top by means of a light-trap was also continued.

A number of research projects were also carried out. These included the identification and mapping of lichen communities on the façade of the museum, and the determination of lichens on the water reservoir at the Civil Abattoir. The four volunteers working on the conchological collection, namely Paul Sammut, Charles Sammut, Constantine Mifsud and Charles Cachia continued with their two visits per week. With the financial support of the agency they published *An Annotated and Bibliographical Check-List of the Marine Mollusca of the Maltese Islands*. The annual visit to the Filfla plateau was carried out in collaboration with BirdLife Malta on 16 May. As usual, the main aim of this visit was to monitor and ring the chicks of the Yellow-legged Gulls breeding on the plateau and to continue data gathering on the islets' flora and fauna. The senior

curator was in Gibraltar from 22 to 27 March to discuss future collaboration with the Gibraltar Museum and was given a tour of the World Heritage Caves famous for their Neanderthal remains. Field work was also conducted in South America. The senior curator was once again in French Guiana as part of an international project to identify biological hotspots in forest habitats. The three-week long field trip (16 July to 2 August), in collaboration with the Institute of Earth Systems of the University of Malta, led a group of MSc students to the tropical forests of French Guiana and provided several interesting insights on the insects and birds of this country.

Work continued on the digitisation of collections, including the digital photo-library hosting all the specimens present at the museum and Għar Dalam. The library is being expanded to hold digital images and sounds of live specimens. As has been done with the ornithological collection, the aim is to have all the collections available on-line on the agency's website. The two British volunteers, Steve and Noelma Shaw, were back in September and continued to work on the digitisation of the Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) collection until December. Two students, one from ESPLORA and the other on a voluntary basis digitised the Orthoptera (grasshoppers) collection during summer. Moreover, since a number of police cases were cleared, the second half of the year involved the cataloguing and digitisation of over 340 bird specimens. The ongoing digitisation of the bird collection is also progressing well and to date over 6,500 specimens have been digitised.

The museum also prepared a list of available raptor specimens to be sent for DNA analysis as part of a COST Project. PhD student Cecily Nicholl from University College London, visited the museum on 26 June to measure and photograph the *Tomistoma gaudense* (crocodilian fossil) specimen. As in previous years a considerable number of University and MCAST students were given access to the museum collections and library. A selection of bound ornithological journals (*Ibis* and *British Birds*) as well as a complete bound set of the newspaper *il-Passa* and *il-Passatemp* were presented by the heirs of Joe Sultana of Xagħra, Gozo. The senior curator published 'The Cricket and the Box – An overview of the Entomological Collections at the National Museum of Natural History', in *Tesserae* No. 9.

The museum was directly involved in a number of internal projects. The first focused on biological and environmental studies at Ғағар Qim and Mnajdra, specifically a lichen survey. This involved mapping of new chromatic biological alterations at the temples and data analysis of mapping of lichen control communities at Mnajdra. Periodical meetings were held with the Faculty of Build Heritage researchers on the scientific investigations for Ғағар Qim and Mnajdra. The aim of these meetings are to devise and execute investigations as well as to collate and integrate current data collected (biological, chemical and physical) to ultimately be able to build a model of changes taking place on a macro, meso and micro scale following the shelter installation.

A second initiative concerned the mapping of onsite vegetation in relation to gastropod communities at the Xagħra Stone Circle. The mapping and vegetation list were concluded; these will now be compared with the gastropod material in order to issue a final report.

A lighting survey is also being conducted at St Paul's Catacombs. Areas where lighting needs to be dimmed are being identified in different catacombs. A number of black spots were noted on a wall painting in catacomb 17. Wet material preparation revealed it was a mixture of mould with cyano and algae. In order to mitigate this problem orange light filters were put to dim lighting levels within critical areas. A separate survey is being carried out in order to identify new biological patinas in different locations to be able to monitor changes in various patinas following light changes in future monitoring studies, especially on feature walls.

A further initiative focused on problems caused by earthworms at the Hypogeum. Following a site inspection in January, a report on mitigation measures was prepared. This was followed by a week-long cleaning exercise of the earth worm *Dendrotilus rubidus* from the lower levels of the site.

An **Integrated Pest Management** committee was set up under the chairmanship of the museum curator. The initial work carried out included the writing of an Emergency Infestation Protocol for Heritage Malta sites and museums, and trap setting in the Conservation labs in October-November. In this respect, the following projects were initiated:

IPM0001_MUZA (June – October): Identification and documentation of moulded artefacts, preparation of cleaning protocols and procedures for conservators, guidance to conservators in cleaning, trap setting in museum and current stores, training to general hand and front of house.

IPM0002_Inquisitor's Palace (October): Setting up of traps in the costume exhibition and costume collection rooms, identification of frass material and weevils (in progress), onsite meeting and conducting market research to change the flood lights used in floor 'channels' to illuminate the channels.

IPM_MUZA0002 (October): Barrera painting insect identification (October). Biscuit beetle *Stegobium* species were identified, some specimens were set, pinned and deposited in entomology collection of the museum.

IPM_FRTANG0001 (August): Coordinating with textile conservators to create a box for a clay pipe artefact + tobacco with a false base to be able to put a desiccant in order to reduce the chances of future mould growth.

On other fronts, the minerals exhibition was dismantled and reassembled in two rooms for a duration of seven months. In October the exhibition was reopened in its original hall. New interpretation panels highlighting the different groups of flora and fauna in the Maltese Islands were set up in the museum corridors. New introduction panels were also fixed outside each

display halls, which now are all dedicated to Maltese naturalists. Each panel displays a portrait of each person and an introduction to the subject on display. A new setup for the *Argonauta* group was prepared and installed in the Conchology Hall. A room on the upper floor was used as a display area highlighting Big Cats and the conservation issues they are facing, while another small display focused on another environmental problem – poaching of two African mammals; the elephant and the rhino. In one of the smaller rooms a shark's jaw was set up during one of the open days as a prop for people to photograph themselves through the shark's mouth. In October one of the halls on the upper floor was converted into a children's activity room with puzzles, books and drawing material available. Adults can also use the room to browse through some nature-related publications.

A report of works carried out in 2018-19 related to the Conservation Order at **Għar Dalam** was sent to ERA, including a protocol for a two-year study on the biology and ecology of the endemic woodlouse. Excavation works were carried out on a rural room which had previously been inaccessible because it was surrounded with prickly pear trees. The room had been used as a dump for material excavated from inside the cave and a large amount of formerly discarded specimens and artefacts including teeth, bones and pottery were collected. Material was transferred to the National Museum of Natural History for cleaning, identification and storage. Most alien species were removed and replaced in previous years but a number of highly invasive species continued to appear as a result of the presence of seeds in the soil which can remain viable for several years. Removal of these seedlings will continue for years to come to ensure that they do not invade the area again. Species included *Agave*, *Opuntia ficus-indica*, *Acacia* sp, and *Leucaena leucocephala*.

The Prehistoric Sites Department registered progress on a number of initiatives. The storage of artefacts at the **Ħaġar Qim & Mnajdra** Visitor Centre has been organised with an inventory of all finds being drawn up, their condition recorded, and their safe storage being reallocated to a dedicated room at Ħaġar Qim. Preparations have started for the revision of the interpretation at the Visitor Centre. In this regard, a new design for the activity room in the centre has been prepared. In 2020 the redesign of the rest of the interpretation will also be undertaken. The department is also representing Heritage Malta in an Interreg Italia-Malta Project led by the University of Malta and including ERA as Maltese partners. If approved, this project, involving the dissemination of information about Natura 2000 sites, will see the introduction of interpretation measures within the visitor centre and the surrounding landscape which will inform visitors to Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra about the Natura 2000 site, its importance and its vulnerability.

As part of the regular maintenance of the sites, accumulated dust and debris was cleared from Ħaġar Qim. The same will be done at Mnajdra in 2020. A new environmental monitoring system at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra will be installed in early 2020. This will ensure the continued monitoring of the sites' environmental conditions and will also see the introduction of an integrated system for the analysis of such data. The department is also supporting a collaboration project between Heritage Malta and the Faculty of the Built Environment within the University

of Malta. Through this collaboration, two post-doctoral students are carrying out analysis of the environment and its impact on the preservation of these sites, as well as the digital modelling of the environmental conditions under the protective shelters. The department is also collaborating with the Department of Geosciences in their ongoing seismic monitoring of the Maltese islands by having one of the monitors installed at a room in **Ħaġar Qim**.

As part of the regular maintenance of the sites, accumulated dust and debris was dusted off all the megaliths at **Tarxien Temples**. This is done in order to remove salts and other material which are found on the surface of the megaliths and which may contribute to the deterioration of the site. The material dusted is removed from the site. The installation of the new environmental monitoring system was concluded. The installed equipment is located in the same position as previous systems were located to ensure continuity of data gathered, and also to measure the performance of the protective shelter from a preventive conservation aspect. Conservation work was conducted on site throughout the year. This included the stabilisation of megaliths, identification of potential issues and taking preventive measures, as well as the restoration of stone walls which had been constructed shortly after the original excavation in 1915-19. The new revised guidebook of Tarxien Temples was published and launched in October.

As part of the project for the preservation of the **Xagħra Stone Circle**, it was agreed with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage that excavations will be carried out in the East Cave. During the 2018 fieldwork at the site it was found that the area still held extensive remains that hold significant potential for archaeological research. Following measures to ensure the safety of excavators in the East Cave by protecting the walls from any possible collapse, excavations were carried out in the area over two weeks in May. Archaeological excavations were carried out by archaeologists from Heritage Malta and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, and these were then followed by the analysis of finds during post-excavation. The finds uncovered indicate that the area still has enormous potential in yielding information on prehistoric mortuary customs, as well as information on the Neolithic population's health, pathologies and demographics. Excavations will continue in 2020.

The department continued its participation in the collaborative project with St Martin's Institute for the development of a virtual tour of the **Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum**. Further discussions were held, and representatives from the Institute working on the project were given access to metadata relating to the 3D model of the site. All the content required was supplied and the Institute presented a first draft of the VR application. In July, the Department supported researchers from Macquarie University, Sydney and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage who are working on bone remains excavated from the Hypogeum, including the skull exhibited in the site's visitor centre. A CT scan was done of this skull and it was also examined and recorded. This project will resume in mid-2020.

Air sampling, pest control and environmental monitoring continued throughout the year. An infestation of earthworms was observed throughout the Middle Level. Live samples were studied by the National Museum of Natural History and a proposal for removal was discussed. This proved to be quite difficult as any chemical intervention which would ensure the total elimination

of the pest is not possible at the Hypogeum as it would cause damage to the site. All earthworm casts and a few live species were removed manually from the site – a process which took a week to conclude. The situation was visually monitored throughout the year and the process will have to be repeated bi-annually to manage the situation. Nonetheless research will continue in an attempt to identify a more efficient manner in which to control this issue.

Meetings were held with previous owners of expropriated plots north of **Ta' Haġrat**, to discuss access requirements to their properties in preparation for the design of landscaping and incorporating this plot of land within the site boundary and improving facilities. Heritage Malta objected to the sanctioning of a scrapyard 60 metres away from the site on an Outside Development Zone. The permit was refused but the applicant appealed the decision. The final hearing for the appeal will be heard in 2020; the application has been recommended for refusal. Discussions were held with the Mgarr mayor and the Superintence of Cultural Heritage with regards to a proposal for the management of rain water that floods the end of the street where the site is situated. The Local Council will be submitting a formal application for this project that will require an archaeological excavation of a small part of the field across the road from the site. The Local Council will also be submitting a proposal to Heritage Malta to review street lighting for the site. Current lighting is too strong and is affecting crops in the neighbouring fields. Security officers at **Skorba** reported a fire in the field next to the site. The fire was put out by members of the Civil Protection Department. No damage was sustained. The prehistoric entrance to the site was cleaned from accumulated soil and vegetation that had completely covered prehistoric features.

Meetings continued to be held in order to increase the accessibility and importance of **Borġ in-Nadur** as one of the sites to be included in the National Park that is being projected in the area of Wied Dalam. An area which warrants remote sensing has been identified. This is projected to occur in 2020 and 2021. This area is thought to be of archaeological interest based on the historic excavations of Margaret Murray and David Trump. Moreover, the two megaliths forming the horizontal part of a trilithon along the façade of the site were lowered to the ground. This was carried out to avoid collapse since the supporting uprights had deteriorated to the point of becoming unstable. Debris from beneath the megaliths were removed manually by the curators. This debris was the remains of a collapsed field hut which in antiquity had been built into the façade of the site. A study on the original position of the megaliths of the façade is now being conducted so as to inform the way forward in the preservation of the façade.

The beehives which were set up at **Kordin Temples** in 2018 were removed from the site since they were creating problems from an operational perspective in terms of opening the site by appointment, removal of vegetation, and posing a risk for neighbouring communities when they were holding their own activities.

The department has also collaborated with the Natural History Department for the Biological survey and assessment of Tarxien, Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples, as well as the ongoing monitoring of the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum. In preparation for a detailed condition assessment of all Neolithic Sites, the Prehistoric Sites Department has carried out the inventory of all the

megaliths at Kordin. This involved attributing an individual reference number to each megalith at this site as was done at Borġ in-Nadur, Tarxien and Mnajdra. This will be used in the digitization of archival material as well as new assessments of the condition of the megaliths. The same exercise will be carried out at Ғaġar Qim, Skorba and Ta' Ғaġrat in 2020. The condition assessment of Borġ in-Nadur, Tarxien and Kordin was carried out together with the Conservation Department and the results are currently being digitised so as to determine the urgency and priority of interventions at these sites.

Two members of the department continued their work within the National Steering Committee for **UNESCO** matters, which is convened by the Maltese ambassador on an *ad hoc* basis. A member of the department participated in a workshop on the Role of Visitor Centres in UNESCO Designated sites – Interpretation of Heritage and Education for Sustainable Development in Bamberg, Germany. The workshop focused on interpretation strategies for UNESCO sites.

Throughout the year, the department received several research proposals on a variety of topics. These were assessed and research agreements signed with those who decided to follow through with their work following the department's feedback. The department is currently supporting three such research projects. Discussions were also held and collaborations started with the Department of Geosciences (Faculty of Science) and the Department of Communications & Computer Engineering (Faculty of Information and Communication Technology). These collaborations will lead to three other research projects in collaboration with the Prehistoric Sites Department.

The Prehistoric Sites Department was regularly consulted on planning applications in the vicinity of sites that it manages. During 2019 it has been consulted on 32 individual cases in total. For each of these cases the department was consulted on every instance when the applicant submits fresh information or amended drawings. A database of these applications and each step of Heritage Malta's feedback was created in order to keep an adequate record of these consultations, and also to be able to follow up on the cases. Cases from 2018 onwards were inputted. In addition, the Prehistoric Sites Department has proposed a strategy to the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage whereby cases are tackled according to their vicinity to the sites' boundaries. This strategy was welcomed and adopted by the Superintendence.

A new member designated as Coordinator Curatorial Support, joined the Prehistoric Sites Department and was given training in all the sites managed by the department. The coordinator has taken on an active role in the management of the archives of the department. It is envisaged that she will have a more active role in the management of Ғaġar Qim and Mnajdra.

This year registered progress in the implementation of the interpretive vision embarked in the past years for the **Inquisitor's Palace**, namely a historic house approach that will instil life back to eighteenth-century ambiances on ground-floor, first-floor and the prison complex. This in turn complemented with a redesign and relocation of the religious ethnographic displays earmarked for the upper floor of the Inquisitor's Palace. Steps forward are inclusive of restoration works on

the built fabric and preparatory work towards the enhancement of physical accessibility and an improved visitor experience. This ran parallel with projects within the reserve collections, intellectual accessibility through publications, social media and an outreach programme of events and educational activities.

A fair share of progress was registered in implementing the much-awaited interpretive vision of presenting the Inquisitor's Palace with a historic house approach offering insights into curious aspects of daily life within reconstructed eighteenth century ambiances at ground floor, first floor and the prison complex), and ethnographic displays illustrating national religious identity, in part resulting from the presence of the Inquisition in Malta, in the upper floor.

New furniture was manufactured for the historic kitchens display, consisting of a working table and a shelf (using worn-out wood) to relocate the kitchenalia and remove the wooden plinths. Studies are also being carried out to evaluate the possibility of reconstructing the fireplace-spit.

Following the discovery of the 1700 *Cancelleria* plans at the *Archivio Segreto Vaticano* in 2014, and that of fragmentary decorated woodwork recycled in a door on the upper floor, there was enough data to attempt a full reconstruction of the entire furniture arrangement, consisting of archival units with painted decorative motifs, three platforms, and a central richly decorated arrangement featuring the portrait of Pope Innocent XII. The *trompe-l'oeil* wall paintings in the *Cancelleria* and the fragmentary doors have been cleaned and analysed to pin down the original colour schemes. Refurbishment works (inclusive of the reinstating of the original wall paint scheme) in the hall are ready, carpentry works on the first two units have been finalised, and decoration is currently underway. Considerable progress is expected in 2020.

Equally exciting is the analysis, cataloguing and conservation works of deposits which have been recovered from the Prison cess-pit and respective courtyard in 1998 and the works carried out in 2002 to turn a former Enemalta store in a torture chamber, and the adjacent prison cells carried out in 2016 and 2017. This project is being led by the principal curator of the National Museum of Archaeology. It is not only yielding curious utensils and historic fragments, but is also securing a Palace collection that will be fundamental in illustrating Palace life. In our explorative journey of discovery and interpretation of the main values behind the Inquisitor's Palace, we are now adding a third resource to the more established architectural and archival sources, that is, archaeology – making out of this site Malta's richest palace in terms of historical data. The temporary Espresso exhibition, 'The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th Century Malta', which took place in the upper floor between the 18th-century Inquisitor's informal dining room, and the *Credenza* for the storage of tableware, is the first tangible result of this work. Resources permitting, this project will spill into next year, when more work on cataloguing past finds will take place. It is only then that we can eventually explore the possibility of other excavations in other parts of the Palace.

On the other hand not much progress was registered on the relocation of the religious ethnographic displays to the upper floor and the redesign of the *piano nobile* display. This in view of the necessary preparatory work and studies to implement a large scale project that would

include a full reinstatement of the inquisitorial apartment with the inclusion of the two missing rooms above the historic kitchen to house important museum facilities. This project will also see to improve upon physical accessibility, as various options including the installation of a visitor lift will be explored. This exploratory process has started with the awarding of a survey of the building that will start in 2020. Until the project materialises and permits are in hand, relocation of the ethnographic collection will be difficult.

With regards to the National Textile Collection, following the setting up of a new split-level storage and display area in October 2018, we have run a full-year of monitoring. Environmentally both facilities are performing well. On the other hand there seems to be a minor issue with the wooden beams and soffit which are showing signs of infestation and resin droppings, probably resulting from past or current water seepage. The situation is being monitored closely.

The senior curator has co-authored an article on *Il-Ftira in Tesserae* and has also contributed towards the publication of the Espresso series leaflet accompanying the exhibition on the Inquisitor's porcelain.

As to **Industrial Heritage** the respective curator has this year successfully attended a short course on the Conservation of Transport and Industrial Collections, at the West Dean College, UK. This was particularly rewarding in improving his understanding of the conservation aspects through applied scenarios and work practices. Throughout the year, the section has secured a good number of donations of industrial and ethnographic value. Various offers had to be turned down due to storage limitations.

Beyond Palace walls, the Ethnography section has also seen to the upkeep of the **Church of Our Lady of Pilar**. This included securing doors, clearing and thoroughly cleaning windows, elevation walls and floors. It is hoped that a more structured planning of works and outreach events can be adopted once all the restoration work in the adjacent Auberge d'Aragon is over. Although still in its initial stages, research is underway, and the section has managed to secure further documentation to attest to the recent history of the church. Most of the church's paintings and artefacts need further study and restoration work.

Significant artefacts were secured through transfers, purchases, internet acquisitions and donations. Most remarkable is the transfer of two 18th century *sottospecchi* featuring Inquisitor Ludovico Gualtieri's coat-of-arms, from the Police Headquarters in Floriana. These in line with the other identical *sottospecchio* transferred from the Grand Master's Palace in recent years – this towards securing an unprecedented set of three furniture items with an undisputed provenance to the Inquisitors. It is with the same approach that we are trying to relocate an 18th century Apostolato set of paintings belonging to Stefano Erardi, which has along the years found itself sparsely relocated in various public buildings. To the St James at the Inquisitor's Palace, other four paintings were transferred from San Anton Palace, St John from the Grand Master's Palace and St Matthias from the Police Headquarters in Floriana. A portrait of Caterina Scappi was also transferred from San Anton to the Inquisitor's Palace in view of the interpretative value to the Inquisitor Chigi and Grand Master de Paul narrative. A portrait of an ecclesiastic, retained

to be Imbroll, was also transferred from the Grand Master's Palace to the Inquisitor's Palace, after that it clearly transpired as one of the paintings donated by Gollcher to furnish the Palace in the 1920s. An extremely accomplished 18th century still-life painting, recorded as a signed work by Don Giuseppe Velasco was also transferred from the Police Headquarters in Floriana and is currently being restored. In this same exercise Salvatore Busuttil's Gideon and the Angel was transferred to Verdala Palace along with other 19th century paintings from the Grand Master's Palace, and copies of the historic depictions of Grand Master de Valette and Count Roger were transferred to the Police Headquarters.

Among the purchases is a c.1760s print of Inquisitor Fabrizio Verallo (1600-05), and two original etchings by Alessandro Specchi showing Palazzo Chigi and Monte Citorio published in *Nuovo Teatro delle Fabriche, et Edificii, In Prospettiva di Roma moderna* by Domenico de Rossi in 1699. Other acquisitions include a wooden butcher's block dating and a coffee roaster.

This year also registered a relevant number of donations, including an early 20th century loom and accompanying accessories (including *moxt*, *mkiekel* etc), formerly belonging to Adelaide Cini Institute in Santa Venera, a number of textile collections, a significant collection of plaster casts for crib figurines, and finished and unfinished clay figurines formerly belonging to Ġanni Bonnici (1914-88), a Singer leather industrial sewing machine 31K18 (1937), and tools used in honey production and by earth-beaters (*ballata*) and other items. As to the industrial heritage collection, we managed to secure some increasingly rare pieces, including an early 20th century Electrolux kerosene-operated absorption type refrigerator, and a wooden lathe and corresponding tools used to carve large stone columns and *balavostri*. A full list can be found in Appendix 5.

With respect to fortifications, as from March, **Fort St Elmo** (excluding the National War Museum) forms part of the responsibilities of the Principal Curator Fortifications (comprising also Fort St Angelo and Fort Delimara). Several directional signs around the fort were replaced and augmented, while new ambience sound was installed in Abercrombie Bastion. Moreover, the research, writing and design of a new set of interpretation panels around Fort St Elmo is currently being compiled. A research process was started whereby information about the fort's history is being gathered from primary and secondary sources. So far, research has been conducted at the National Library of Malta and the National Archives of Malta in order to obtain high resolution copies of all available maps and plans featuring Fort St Elmo. A trip to the National Archives UK for the same purpose also took place on 26-29 November.

A research programme on **Fort Delimara's** history was also initiated and information is being gathered from published sources and primary sources found in several archives including the National Archives of Malta and the Public Works archives. In November, a trip to the National Archives in London focused on documentary sources reflecting the fort's history. A report was also prepared in relation to the current condition of all areas within the fort. A collection related to Fort Delimara was also set up. So far it comprises nine items (including a 1935 photo of the fort, an 1885 front cover copy of *The Graphic*, a 1930s postcard, a 1997 RMA soldier picture card,

and a donation of a copy of an SO Book compiled by RMA Gunner A. Caruana, who listed the rigorous procedure of artillery instalment at Fort Delimara in the 1930s. It will certainly be augmented with more artefacts relating to the fort's history.

Research on the **Fort St Angelo**'s history was continued throughout this year. Special focus was given to the site's Royal Naval history in relation to the temporary exhibition 'Behind Closed Doors'. This included recorded interviews with 26 former service personnel, four of which were specifically invited from the UK. Research was enhanced with visits to the National Archives of Malta in order to obtain high resolution copies of plans and maps showing Fort St Angelo. The total number of artefacts in the Fort's collection increased by 72 items from the previous year. These included the purchase of 20 items ranging from postcards and photographs to stamps and ship crests. 51 items were also donated. The increase in the number of donations was mainly as a direct consequence of the 'Behind Closed Doors' exhibition. A full list of donated items is found in Appendix 5. The interpretation provision on site was enhanced in a number of ways. Several items of the exhibition 'Behind Closed Doors' were retained in the permanent display, fifteen new interpretation panels were installed at Upper Fort St Angelo, a new interpretation video was produced for the oubliette, the English site leaflet was upgraded (other languages to follow), and Chinese was added to the audioguides languages. A site guidebook is in preparation for publication next year.

At the **Malta Maritime Museum**, the wooden medieval icon of St Anne formerly at the St Elmo chapel was put on display in the Carrack section following conservation. Upgrades in the Ancient Shipping section at ground floor commenced. The Egyptian river boat model was removed from display due to a fungal infestation. The showcase was replaced by two panels representing the lifting of a large roman anchor and an information panel about the said anchor.

The restoration project of the *Dgħajsa tal-Pass* was concluded. Following the first coatings of paint, replacement pieces for passenger benches were installed to strengthen the weak wooden ribs. The old bronze number 19 was removed to return the boat to its original 'rota' used at the Dockyard which never had a number. Copper fittings have been conserved and stored. Space was earmarked for the newly restored boat in the permanent display on the History of the Maltese Dockyards instead of the wooden dock model, which was put in storage. This was the first restoration project of a Maltese boat completed in the last ten years. A small wooden *frejgatina* was also salvaged as part of the ongoing search for rare Maltese boats.

The anchor and crane currently situated beneath Fort St Angelo were cleaned and painted, together with the mobile steam boiler near the tower clock of the museum. Major works started on the uniform collection. All items were numbered, sealed and transported to undergo anoxia treatment, in preparation for their eventual transfer to an earmarked space. Traditional regatta boats and Royal Navy furniture kept in the reserve collection were transferred to the east wing on third floor in preparation for major restoration works. Malta Dockyard documents still not on inventory and kept in archive boxes were quarantined in preparation for documentation. The Carmel Testa collection of documents was inspected for possible eventual purchase.

Two oil paintings representing 18th century naval battle scenes, earmarked as from 1992, were finally transferred to the museum from the Auberge d'Aragon. These two paintings have now finally completed the set of four naval battles and were immediately hung in St Angelo Hall.

The model of the *Calypso* was delivered to the museum as the initial stage of the Jacques Cousteau collaboration. It was slightly damaged and was restored under the guidance of Diane Cousteau. The newly-appointed model maker has also commenced the required treatment of the 3rd Rate Nautical School ship model in collaboration with conservators.

The model-maker has also registered very good progress on the diorama (1:32) representing a Maltese gun emplacement built at Gharghar against French republican forces. The Gharghar Battery, also known as *It-Twila*, was one of a series of defensive lines built by Vincenzo Borg, known as Brared. It was designed to control the approaches from Gzira and overlooked the land defences of Fort Manoel. There are a number of accounts and drawings regarding this battery. Of particular interest was its linear platform, two flanking walls, the right one which is clearly built onto an existing field wall, and enclosing the rear, and a high wall which stopped short of the flanking walls to provide entrance. A guard room and two 'towers' were also incorporated probably at a later stage. In one of the sources is what seems to be an underground vaulted casemate in the middle of the embankment.

Another drawing shows a semi-circular double arched barrel-vault covered with soil. In some of the sources there is a strange rectangular opening in the ground, at the rear of the gun platform. It could have been a ventilation shaft for the underground casemate. In another source the two buildings adjacent to embrasures are clearly shown to be watch towers, higher than the embrasures and with small windows. On one there is the typical masonry pivot holes used as a flag post. According to Testa this battery was the first to fly the British flag, besides the Bourbon flag of the Kingdom of Naples. Styrofoam was used to create the main structure, which was covered with layers of plaster mixed with white glue and acrylic paint. It was sanded down to a flat or textured surface as required before detailing textures. A plinth and cover has been designed specifically for this diorama, which was temporary exhibited during the Birgu by Candlelight event. Currently accessories and the human element are being built up.

On a separate note, the overhaul of the library furniture was started. Three metal library cases have been dismantled, cleaned and re-sprayed. Four 19th century captain chairs salvaged from the Dockyard will be restored to form part of the office furniture. A considerable number of unwanted equipment and other material which had accumulated along the years were carted away, especially in view of upcoming infrastructural works as part of the EEA project.

Another major development at the museum was the hosting of a new office and section within Heritage Malta, the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. It installed a temporary antenna on the museum roof to conduct surveillance of diving activity in Maltese waters.

Significant progress was registered at the **library and archive of the Malta Maritime Museum**. The organisation of the general reference library is mostly complete. More shelving space is required and is being acquired in order to accommodate the growing library and to provide adequate facilities for the increasing number of researchers. The section of books donated by Robert L. Dauber was listed and included in the library catalogue. This section is now on newly refurbished shelving and is kept locked as it contains valuable books. The rare books section was moved to newly refurbished shelves, and books which need attention by conservators have been listed. The articles found in the publications of the *Friends of the Maritime Museum* are currently being listed. Another list being compiled is that of articles in the *Mariner's Mirror* which feature Malta.

Mr Joseph Meli, a volunteer, has worked on a new system to enhance the search options of the entire collections (archives/library/artefacts) at the museum. These have been merged into one spreadsheet, thus making it easier for users to identify items with a common theme. This is a temporary measure until a proper collection management system is acquired.

Digitisation of the archives of the museum has started; photographs are being uploaded onto the server with tags. They will soon be available in a shared folder for all museum staff members along with other digitised items. Archival items which had been listed and stored in box files have now been included in the digital inventory and re-boxed in archival quality boxes. New plan chests were set up for the archives. Lists of the facsimiles which were part of the Joseph Muscat collection started to be drawn up. This collection will be moved to newly refurbished shelving in the coming months.

The newly acquired 19th century volumes known as the 'Brared manuscript' (MMA/57) and the two manuscripts of Giorgio Mitrovich (MMA/58; MMA/59) were digitised. The acquisition of these three volumes has been promoted in the media, thereby prompting a number of researchers to request access, which has been granted, until such documents can be accessed online in due course. The 'Brared manuscript' was also displayed publicly during *Birgufest*. Visitors had the opportunity to discuss the manuscript and a model of the French period battery being displayed along six drawing by A. Scolaro which refer to the model of the French period battery being constructed.

Seventeen early 19th century issues of the Government Gazette have been fumigated and are currently undergoing conservation. Two large 19th century format plans featuring gun emplacements around the harbour areas are also being conserved.

Initial advice was sought from local artisans and gilders on the restoration of gilt furniture pieces at the **Grand Master's Palace**. Unfortunately a whole suite of Maltese Louis XV style consisting of four sofas, ten armchairs and four later chairs need to be re-gilt anew since of their state. One of the settees was found at San Anton, re-gilded in an un-appropriate manner and upholstered in modern material some years ago. The situation with other furniture sets around the State Rooms is unfortunately not that much better. Another suite of the same period, manufacture

and style also required new upholstery. Two armchairs from this same set were found at San Anton Palace. Since they were unfortunately gilt and re-upholstered with modern material some years ago, they will have to be 'undressed' from gilding, restored to bare wood finish and re-upholstered with the rest of the suite.

A small number of items were purchased. These include a portrait of a Knight Grand Cross and of a *Chevalier demi Croix de Malte*. An 1853 drawing of the Palace's main staircase by Giuseppe Calleja was also purchased. It shows the staircase as originally built, with flagstone steps and landings and a totally open central oval well. These were subsequently replaced by marble and parts of the well closed up. A late William IV/early Victorian card table was retrieved from Belgravia Auction Gallery in March after it was found that it belonged to the national collection and forming part of a set presently at San Anton Palace.

A considerable number of items were also moved and inventoried at the two Presidential Palaces of **San Anton and Verdala**. A mid-eighteenth century painting depicting the only known Maltese corsair naval engagement was transferred to the Malta Maritime Museum from Verdala. It was substituted by an equally large painting by Salvatore Busuttil depicting *The Apparition of the Lord's Angel to Gideon*, which is so important to the Anglican Church of England and was originally part of the Palace collection. For a number of years this early 19th century painting was at the Inquisitor's Palace. This painting, together with those of *Aeneas* by Pietro Paolo Caruana, *Achilles* by Salvatore Busuttil and *Ajax* also by Salvatore Busuttil were sent to Malta from Rome by said artists, who had been sent on scholarship at the *Accademia di San Luca* by British Governors.

The curator of the **National War Museum** received a considerable number of queries by researchers and students, asking about particular events or the whereabouts of their parents or grandparents when they served in Malta in both world wars. The curator also gathered a number of wartime photographs in connection between Malta and the USA for an exhibition to be held at the Maltese Consulate in the USA.

With respect to the collection, dust falling from the walls and ceilings is representing a considerable problem. In certain parts of the fort this problem is acute. The collection storage rooms are being cleaned every week, while a number of measures are being implemented in order to tackle the problem, especially regarding the textile reserve collection room. Some objects on display were affected by mould. Most of the said items were conserved on site, while a few others were taken to Bighi for further treatment. Attention is also being given to the Willys Jeep 'Husky' to prevent it from rusting. Moreover the UC-37 Deck Gun and the three German G6 AV torpedoes, situated on each side of Hall 4, were conserved by painting them as they were during WWI.

On the other hand monetary donations continued to increase. This is helping the museum by purchase various artefacts such as two silver trophies pertaining to Maltese Regiments KOMR & RMA. Donations of objects have decreased especially since the museum still does not have the former 'memorial' in place. However work is at hand and it should be completed in 2020.

Research at the National Archives continued. Apart from documents directly relevant for the museum, other information related to other sites was also sourced, such as documents about the damages sustained by the Grand Master's Palace and its later restoration.

This year the curators' publication *Malta during WW II* was re-printed. Other publications included the following:

'The Coastal defence of Mellieħa during the late medieval period' in *Tesserae*, Issue 7.

'The Role, the surviving fuselage and the presentation of the Gloster gladiator N5520 'Faith' in *Treasures of Malta*, No.75, Summer 2019, Vol XXV, No. 3.

'80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II Part I: They that sow the wind, shall reap the whirlwind', in *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 1 September.

'80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II Part II: Malta steels itself for the gathering storm', in *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 8 September.

'80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II: Part III: Calm before the storm', in *The Sunday Times of Malta*, 15 September.

'L-Introduzzjoni tas-sistema tar-razzjon u l-ispezzjonijiet li kienu jsiru fil-ħwienet tal-Mellieħa, Diċembru 1941,' in *Għaqda Mużikali Imperial, Festa Marija Bambina 2019, Il-Mellieħa*.

'Il-kraxx ta' ajruplan tal-RAF f'għalqa fit-telgħa tal-Għadira,' *Il-Festa ta' Marija Bambina 2019, Il-Mellieħa*.

A lot of work has also been done in the cataloguing of the **library and archive of the National War Museum**. The Melitensia section of the museum library has almost been completely listed and the general air section is being tackled. Archival cupboards are being used to store this library and the same categories used by the National War Museum Association have been retained: Air, Land, Sea, Civilian and General. Another section on World History (containing books which are not related to WWII) has been added. Books which are used frequently are kept in the curatorial office. Researchers to the War Museum have increased considerably. The collection which has been consulted most was the War Damage Commission photographs, which is also in digital format.

The great amount of donations collected by the National War Museum Association (NWMA) have also started to be listed. The listing is proving to be very fruitful as the donations being uncovered are proving to be extremely interesting. The section of donations related to the Army has been completed and the section related to Navy and the Sea has commenced. David Vassallo, a retired volunteer who used to form part of the RAMC, is assisting. His expertise in army matters is being put to use as he is helping input more tags, thus making searching easier. He is currently working on the donations in the category *Army/Land* within the section of the NWMA donations.

Newspapers published in Malta during the war years and which have been conserved last year have been included in the main inventory of the archives/library. The digitising of Government documents has continued. They are being re-boxed while removing harmful materials from these archives. The digitising of photographs from the NWMA collection has also progressed.

Discussions are being held with MaltaPost to use the digitising service offered to government entities. The digitising will take place in Gozo.

A sizeable number of books originally belonging to John A. Mizzi, a prominent war historian, have been donated by the St Aloysius branch of the Scouts. These books have been fumigated, marked with an ex-libris and are now included in the main inventory of the archives.

A fire maintenance agreement was signed in March. This will cover the fire retardant system of the archives for the coming three years. Testing is carried out regularly to ensure that the equipment is always in optimum functioning condition. It has also been ascertained that the audio visual material in the archives is not in danger of combustion and that the containers of the material need to be changed. Some of the material has been digitised but not all of it is up to standard for digital preservation. Hopefully this issue will be tackled in 2020. Lockers to be used by researchers while perusing archival holdings of the museum have also been installed.

During the open day at Fort St Elmo, a small exhibition on food and rationing was put up displaying archival holdings from the museum. A commemorative bookmark which features the archives was distributed, and a lecture in collaboration with the George Cross Island Association was held in the conference room. The archives of the museum were featured in the two issues of *Tesserae*. The publication *L-Arkivju*, published by the National Archives of Malta, also carried an article about the archives. Further outreach was done on radio; one episode of the programme *Jum fil-ħajja ta'* aired on Campus FM focused on the photographic collection of the War Damage Commission. The archives also featured in a book about Maltese archives which has been published recently.

The archivist has participated in two record management forums organised by the National Archives, during which record managers within the public sector met to discuss their challenges and work processes. The archivist has also taken part in a seminar held at the Scottish National Archives regarding planning an educational activity concerning archives which is engaging for children of different ages.

Two cast iron mortars previously pertaining to the **Palace Armoury** collection were noticed up for auction in April. After discussing the matter with the auctioneer and owner, the pair of mortars were withdrawn from auction and were transferred to the Armoury collection by the owner. In May a further two similar mortars as those recovered in the said auction were also reclaimed. These had been on loan to the AFM Luqa barracks together with eighteen painted 16th century wooden shields that had been on display at the Officers' Mess. These have since all been transferred to the Armoury. In exchange, three panoplies of arms consisting of replica weapons were handed over for display at the Sergeants' Mess. Apart from these, two 19th century breastplates (formerly bought from the Dom Mintoff auction) together with a set of six framed autograph pen and ink drawings by Richard England were also handed on loan for display at the Sergeants' Mess. Discussions were also held with AFM officers in charge of the said items regarding the state of conservation of the six regimental colours on loan and displayed within

their relative showcases at the Officers' Mess in Luqa formerly on display at the Armoury until 1974.

Following an offer by weapons collector Gaetano Ori Saitta from Messina, curatorial staff visited the collection in July to identify possible items that could be relevant for the Armoury collection. Following a thorough study of the collection, a number of firearms were identified. Discussions are underway on the possible acquisition of such firearms. In March Mr Emanuel Falzon of St Julians donated an 18th century flintlock pistol.

As part of the preparations for the new display, conservation work is underway. Apart from several pieces of armour that have already been conserved over the past years, around fifty rapiers have been completed and further sixty together with various decorated pieces of armour are undergoing conservation. Notable above all is the garde-rein part of the full parade suite of Grand Master Aloff de Wignacourt, which is undergoing a meticulous intervention since this was not completed when the suit was restored by the Royal Armouries way back in the 1990s. The conservation of most of the items on display within the showcases is being carried out in preparation for the move of the Armoury from its present location to its former hall on the Piano Nobile.

A study in collaboration with the DSL is being carried out on the collection of military drums on display, to distinguish whether these are original drums or replicas. A delicate restoration project on the collection of remaining three powder flasks is also taking place.

Repair and reconstruction of the mortar wooden base blocks of the entire collection at the Armoury, including the four that have been retrieved as explained above, has been concluded. New blocks replaced the rotten and damaged two blocks of the mortars retrieved from the auction. New wrought iron handles replacing missing ones have been made. A damaged carriage of an iron cannon has also been repaired. Already in programme is the conservation of three Victorian stands formerly in the old Armoury display.

The photography, data capturing and tagging with brass tags of the collection continued, while assistance was given to a student from the UOM Engineering Department to carry out studies on the material composition of armour based on micro-sampling from fragments of armour and non-destructive testing on a suit of armour. This is being done in collaboration with the DSL.

Works on the conservation of the Gran Salon of the **National Museum of Archaeology** continued relentlessly. Half the north wall (abutting the medieval hall) is ready. This side of the hall seems to have suffered a lot of structural changes and damages throughout the years since many of the joints underlying the paint were found to be open, with a lot of detachments. Pieces of pottery were found inserted in holes under the original painting and these shall be studied to be integrated in the final conservation report.

With respect to the collection, the photographic archive has all been digitised. The rest of the photographs have been sorted according to town and they are in the process of being digitised. The cataloguing of the library has been updated and plans are in hand for its extension in the adjoining premises. This would enable the setting up of a proper resource centre to address researchers' needs. In parallel, the archival plans, drawings and survey sheets are being sorted and will eventually be digitised.

In October the museum hosted Dr Marteen Raven, an expert in Egyptology, to assess the collection as part of the collaboration with the Leiden National Museum of Archaeology. A report was drawn on most of the collection and suggestions were made in order to make this collection accessible to the public in a more informed manner.

The museum also embarked on a research project entitled 'The Sentinels of Ħal Saflieni, Malta: Science facts versus science fiction'. This project has been possible through funding by the Union Académique Internationale following a collaboration with Associate Professor Ronika Power from Macquarie University of Sydney. The project will see a combination of traditional archaeological, historical and archival research with cutting-edge scientific analyses to investigate all aspects of the lived experiences of the people of Ħal Saflieni, including their health, disease, lifestyle, diet and ancestry profiles.

The University of Malta and Heritage Malta have joined forces to support a project submitted to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellowship last year called MaltaPot with Dr Catriona Brogan as Principal Investigator. The aim of the MaltaPot project is to develop an innovative and scientifically robust archaeometric methodology for the interdisciplinary analysis of prehistoric Maltese ceramics, and consequently a deeper understanding of the early cultures that produced them. The project will advance the study of Maltese prehistoric ceramics beyond the traditional typological approach through the application of scientifically-based analyses that reinterpret the cultural story within a modern science framework. MaltaPot will explore the emergence of the earliest prehistoric ceramic phases (namely Għar Dalam, Skorba and Żebbuġ 5000-3800 BC) and determine what they can tell us about the technology and cultural affinities of the earliest settlers of the Maltese islands.

The museum also participated in a number of conferences and workshops. The senior curator participated in two workshops as part of the COST project in March and June, entitled Saving European Archaeology from the Digital Dark Age (SEADDA). SEADDA will be vital for establishing a priority research area in the archiving, dissemination and open access re-use of archaeological data, and includes proposers from 26 countries. It brought together an interdisciplinary network of archaeologists and computer scientists, experts in archaeological data management and open data dissemination and re-use. It aims to create publications and materials that will set out the state of the art for archaeological archiving across Europe, recommendations to mitigate the crisis and at least one major funding application. It will organise meetings and training that will allow archaeologists from countries with archiving expertise to work with archaeologists with few or no available options, so they may share knowledge and create dialogue within their countries, and move forward to address the crisis.

In view of Rijeka being Capital of Culture in 2020, the senior curator was invited to participate in a round table held in Rab, Croatia in May, in order to discuss best solutions for presenting their specific sites. Rab is involved in a flagship '27 neighbourhoods' which is one of the programmes of Rijeka 2020. The island of Rab is extraordinarily rich in terms of archaeological heritage and the project is based on presentation of the most significant archaeological sites in situ.

The lectures of the Archaeological Society of Malta continued to be held at the museum which in March also facilitated a sleepover organised by CASA (Classical Archaeology Students' association) with a tour of the museum followed by a number of discussions. Pottery related sessions were also held at the museum in collaboration with the Society of Arts and the Lifelong Learning groups of the Education Department. Museum curators also assisted in the production of short animated cartoons on the history of Malta – Animalta. The official launch took place on 25 September.

In November, a Principal Curator for Research and Documentation of Historic Buildings was assigned to the National Museum of Archaeology. His role is to research and document the historic buildings owned by Heritage Malta. To date work has been focused on the preparation of data relevant to the following projects: started compilation of a non-invasive archaeological assessment of the Auberge de Provence and the Main Guard, Valletta; sorting and analysing available data regarding Underground Valletta; started identification of archives which may yield information on Villa Guardamangia; and assisted in the documentation and analysis of ongoing archaeological investigations at the Inquisitor's Palace.

Apart from initiatives included in other sections of this report, the **Medieval Section** of the museum was also active on a number of fronts. The exhibition 'Core and Periphery', which was originally intended to remain open at the museum till December 2018, was extended to mid-April. Due to the extension it was possible to carry out additional outreach and educational activities. These included an interview on the radio programme 'A day in the life of ...' which was aired on Campus FM in April. A half-day seminar on 3 May was organised at the museum in collaboration with the Department of History and the Department of Archaeology on the subject 'Bridging the Gap between History and Archaeology'. An educational activity for Primary and Secondary level school children was also held in April as part of the activities of *Jum Hal Safi*, in collaboration with the Local Council.

New exhibitions are being planned on the subject of medieval archaeology, starting with 2020. As part of this planning process an official request has been lodged with the Superintendent of Cultural Heritage to transfer back to the museum a number of archaeological artefacts excavated by the Museum Curators from 1990 to 2002. The request is being processed by the Superintendence.

Besides outreach activities associated with the exhibitions at the National Museum of Archaeology and the Inquisitor's Palace, the curator was also involved in other activities aimed at divulging information on related research activities, including a Malta Historical Society lecture

entitled 'Coffee in Early Modern Malta – complementarity in historical and archaeological sources' held at the museum on 30 April, and the publication of an article in the Easter issue of *Tesserae* entitled 'Ottoman Coffee Cups from 18th century Birgu and Valletta', both of which included information derived from archaeological investigations at the Inquisitor's Palace.

Moreover, the curator of the Medieval Section was requested by the Department of Archaeology of the University of Malta to provide technical assistance with its maritime archaeological excavations being carried out in Salina Bay. The fieldwork is part of the student training within the MA in Global Maritime Archaeology. It is investigating the site of a suspected High Medieval shipwreck site, and the formation of the ancient harbour deposits within Salina Bay. The involvement so far consisted in providing daily briefings to the excavation team on the ceramic materials being brought up, and conducting the post-excavation inventory of these materials between October and December. A public seminar on the first results obtained by this project was held at the University of Malta on 7 December, and included a communication specifically dedicated to the medieval materials identified at this site so far.

Collaboration with the Ethnography Section continued on the archaeological assessment of the data from the 1998 excavations, as well as in later dates. The archaeological survey of the 17th century prison wing has also been initiated with the assistance of Mr Christian Mifsud. Publication of the first results of these studies is expected to be completed in 2020.

The study of the medieval materials held in the Gozo Museum has been started with the study, inventory and conservation of a group of Byzantine ceramics found during an emergency recovery in Wied Sara in 1987. It is planned to extend this small scale study to other medieval assemblages stored in Gozo in preparation of a possible exhibition to be held next year.

The study, inventory and conservation of a large group of fine 17th and 18th century ceramics held at the National Museum of Archaeology has also been undertaken in the course of 2019. The materials, which were recovered in 1975 at the former site of the Auberge d'Auvergne in Valletta, complement the study of the 18th century porcelain found in the Inquisitor's Palace, and may be the subject of a future exhibition.

A number of initiatives were undertaken by the **Gozo museums and sites**. The audio-guide script for new audio-guides at the Ġgantija Temples was vetted in June. This project will see the introduction of multi-lingual audio-guides at this World Heritage Site, and is targeted for early 2020. The reception area is being redesigned to be able to accommodate the required furniture to house the audio-guides equipment. Plastic repair works in the inner areas of the Ġgantija Temples were ongoing throughout the year. Stone conservators continuously assess the conditions of the stone fabric and carry out the necessary repairs, applying preventive conservation measures on earmarked locations. The temporary scaffold structure in the North Temple was dismantled in February upon completion of conservation and consolidation works in one of the inner apses.

A number of scientific studies on a Classical period human skeleton discovered at Santa Maria Bay in Comino in 1912 are being financially supported by the Malta Tourism Authority and coordinated by a multi-disciplinary team from Heritage Malta and the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The skeleton is on permanent display at the Gozo Museum of Archaeology. Studies kick-started in February. The skull was taken to Malta for a CT scan; the digital data obtained will provide the basis for a facial reconstruction. Multiple studies will possibly provide insights on the age of the individual, diet, and probable cause of death. Osteologists from the Superintendence and from Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia) examined the skeleton in July, to establish what kind of tests were possible. The cranium and several other bones were examined to provide further information for the digital facial reconstruction exercise.

During February, the 'Liquid and grain measures' display at the Gran Castello Historic House was redesigned, with new plinths manufactured and new interpretation being installed. Periodical disinfestation measures were carried out in the mill-room in the same museum. New furniture was installed in one of the small rooms on the ground floor of the historic house in November. This has been redesigned into an audio-visual display featuring a digital reconstruction of the castle of Gozo.

A collection of 240 textiles dating from the late 19th century acquired in 2018 was catalogued between February and April. All items were photographed, inventoried, tagged and packed in specialised storage boxes, ready for future study. Discussions were held for the production of casts of local graffiti to replace the ones currently on display in the reception area of the Old Prison. The permanent display inventories of all Cittadella sites were updated.

A small store at the Gran Castello Historic House was reorganised and dedicated to inorganic materials only. All items were re-photographed and the inventory updated. The off-site reserve collections were also reorganised. The two leased garages in Archbishop Pace Street in Victoria have been dedicated to stone and ethnographic items respectively. The store in Enrico Mizzi Street, Victoria, on loan from the Ministry for Gozo, is housing some bulky stone objects and artefacts which have undergone conservation treatment.

At the Xaghra Circle, studies were ongoing in the first half of the year. A number of boreholes were dug in January, in order to provide geological data on the stratigraphy within the archaeological site. In early May a scaffold structure was erected on the eastern side of the site, earmarked for the 2019 excavations. The scaffolding facilitated the removal of backfill, as well as providing a safe structure for the archaeologists to work. The actual excavation took place at end of May and was ongoing for two consecutive weeks. The site was then backfilled in June. The whole exercise is being carried out by Heritage Malta staff in collaboration with the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage.

The Gozo Area Office also assisted the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage in the screening of no less than 19 planning applications, all with possible negative impact on sensitive archaeology and/or our built heritage.

A photographic documentation exercise of the walls abutting the privately-owned building adjacent to the Gozo Nature Museum in the Cittadella was carried out in June. The privately-owned house is in dire need of restoration and the owners sought assistance in order to be able to apply for a national restoration scheme. Some of the Old Prison walls also abut part of the back garden of this house.

A major conservation project on a Bishop's carriage dating to the mid-19th century was initiated in the first quarter. The carriage formed part of the Gozo reserve collection – it was exhibited in the old Armoury in the Cittadella up to 2004. The last Bishop of Gozo to use this carriage was Giovanni Maria Camilleri, Bishop of Gozo from 1889-1924, as attested by his coat-of-arms painted on both side doors. The carriage has been earmarked as a star item in the permanent display of the future Gozo Museum. A number of interventions were necessary, including the purchase of the missing front wheels and steering mechanism, consolidation of woodwork and anoxia treatment of the whole carriage. These were completed by October. The carriage has now entered the restoration phase consisting of the restoration of painted surfaces and woodwork, with upholstery works on the interior to take place at the very end.

The year's work at **MUŻA – the National Community Art Museum**, was mainly focused on the care of the permanent display in view of its first cycle in new display conditions, the upkeep of the reserve collections and the relevant planning in view of their transfer to the museum, which has partially started. The transfer of office furniture and content from 138 Melita Street to MUŻA took place in March and April. The entire contents of Room 244 were transferred from Bighi to MUŻA in June, followed by the contents stored at Fort St Elmo in July. The MUŻA collections stored at the National Museum of Archaeology were re-organised in August leading to the transfer of all (remaining) works to the former Tancred Gouder Hall. The transfer of the entire library collection and office documents from Bighi to MUŻA was concluded by November. It is also important to note that a new senior curator was appointed in June, curators were promoted to principal curators and a coordinator curatorial support was recruited to start her duties as from next year.

The conservation treatment of two furniture pieces (sedan chair and writing desk exhibited in 1926 at the British Empire Exhibition held at the Wembley Stadium) have been entrusted to a third party under supervision of internal conservators and will be completed by early 2020. Preparatory work for the glazing of paintings project was conducted. Information and quotations were collected to eventually embark on a phased out project involving the introduction of conservation friendly, scratch-proof, non-reflective glazing in order to protect the actual surface from accidents or vandalism. This particular project be resumed in the near future.

Frequent meetings were held in order to complete the layout of pending showcase contents. The showcase with majolica vase display in the Mediterranean Galleries (Beauty & Purpose), the

showcase with ecclesiastical gold and silver items in the Mediterranean Galleries (Religion & Ritual), the showcase with office and personal items of a typical British period civil servant in the Empire Galleries (At the Service of Empire), and the showcase with Baroque sculptural masterpieces in Europe Galleries have all been concluded. Artworks have also been set up in public spaces so as to set the right context for the museum galleries in line with the museum's concepts of alternating public spaces with museum galleries. It is in this light that one must also factor the curatorial input designing MUŻA restaurant's menus and initiatives. The latter is having considerably good feedback and is increasingly becoming an extension of the museum experience. Banners and visual interpretation provision for the two main entrances were also installed and a new three-gate flier printed. On 2 November a call for proposals was issued for the design of two artistic expressions which will be installed and displayed along the main façade of MUŻA. Through this call Heritage Malta is further entrenching MUŻA's role as the space for creative expression in the heart of the Maltese capital.

Some works on display were removed or added where improvements on the flow of the narrative were deemed fit – focus was placed particularly on the Empire Galleries. Particular attention was made to monitor and improve the lux levels throughout the galleries, and to populate and update the various info-points in the museum public spaces. A three-gate flier to provide basic information on the MUŻA Galleries was also created.

Parallel to this were the challenging environmental problems stemming from excessively high humidity levels which came to a head from July. This was mainly dictated by the fact that this is the collection's first cycle in the new environment of a different building which has gone through a major infrastructural overhaul. Consequently, preventive as well as reactive measures were taken for the safety of the affected collection. This involved: temporarily removing the affected displayed works out of the galleries, temporarily placing them in storage, introducing and enhancing the already existing instruments and systems to monitor the environment, introducing dehumidifiers across all the galleries, implementing all the necessary changes to improve the environment and safeguarding the works still on display and those in storage. This also involved keeping the general visiting public duly informed on developments. Rather than drawing emphasis on the proactive approach in detecting the problem and taking the necessary preventive measures to safeguard the collections, this incident was unfortunately marred by political overtones, thus receiving criticism. The situation was back in hand by the end of September. Environmental conditions were back within acceptable parameters and the great majority of artworks were back on permanent display. The agency is still in contact with contractors to guarantee the permanent solutions needed so that this does not repeat itself.

In the meantime, infrastructural and finishing works in the Camerone (Preti and Maltese Baroque sections) have been finalized. Hanging and setting up of works will take place once the environmental conditions are within acceptable parameters.

Preparations are also underway for an overseas exhibition of select majolica vases to take place in March/April 2020 in Calabria. MUŽA was contacted by Dott. Monica de Marco who requested viewing majolica vases that were manufactured during the 17th century and those that displayed the coat-of-arms of Grand Master Aloff de Wignacourt. Backed by existing literature and her specialization in the field, Dott. De Marco's research has been focused on confirming whether the MUŽA collection vases that bear the Wignacourt emblem produced during his magistracy were actually from Gerace. Judging from certain stylistic features, it appears that her study and analysis of the many of the vases she viewed will yield interesting results that will shed light on the date, makers and workshops that produced a part of the large majolica vase collection at MUŽA.

A **Digitisation Department** has been established in order to establish and inventorise all digital assets available throughout the agency and evaluate sustainability in both digitization and digitalization processes. Its first major task is to manage the digitisation component of the EEA co-funded project 'The Malta Maritime Museum: local development through cultural heritage'. Throughout the year much groundwork for this project has been prepared, including the tendering processes to buy equipment, employment procedures and various logistics. This project outcome will involve the production of a number of digital assets, the establishment of an office with the necessary personnel, equipment and standard operating procedures. This will be backed up with necessary software and network facilities needed to establish, operate and sustain such a technologically-based department.

Concurrently, the department is setting up facilities in different museums to meet various specific demands required by that particular field. These locations include the head office at Bighi, St Paul's Catacombs, the Malta Maritime Museum, the National War Museum, MUZA and the National Museum of Archaeology. Each location has completely different requirements since materials vary in format, content and size calling for different setup and procedural interventions, and work is being done in order to have particular equipment and operate particular projects.

A number of contacts with various other external stakeholders have also been established, including the Malta Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Tourism, the Dhalia Group of companies, the University of Malta, the Planning Authority, Wikimedia Malta and Maltapost. Discussions are being held with these entities regarding various projects, all of which will produce distinctive digital material. Heritage Malta is also on the forefront in representing the island abroad in various fora. In this respect direct contact and representation has been established with major initiatives such as Europeana and Carare. Finally, the department is working in close collaboration with the IT department in order to establish digital tools that will help co-workers in the various departments of the Agency. The objective of the exercise is to find digital solutions to already existing work processes and help in the digitalization of the Agency.

4. CONSERVATION

Paintings, Polychrome Sculpture and Wood Department

The project on the wall paintings of the **Main Guard** has progressed well. The documentation process of the wall paintings proves to be of crucial importance for a better understanding of the depicted scenes and their authors. Hence, extensive research has continued (with the assistance of an expert in the subject) to retrieve new information. The conservation/ restoration intervention is being carried out with the utmost scrutiny to compliment the above. Intervention on half the paintings in the Officer's Mess were completed by the end of the year.

The **Salon project** of the **National Museum of Archaeology** has also advanced at a steady pace, considering the extensive decorative surfaces and the complexity of the interventions. Three conservators are working on this project on a regular basis, while from time to time conservation interns specialising in wall paintings are invited to collaborate. All interventions are being carried out meticulously and to a very high level of conservation standard, as evident from those areas where the work has been completed. By the end of the year, half of the north wall was concluded. The east wall (from the frieze downwards) has been completed last year.

With regards the **Grand Master's Palace project**, staff from the department has constantly monitored the conservation/restoration interventions being done by the contractor on site to ensure that all work is done properly and according to modern conservation ethics.

Conservators from this department were very much involved in assisting the curators of **MUŽA** to address mould problems and environmental issues within the museum. A number of artefacts had to be temporarily removed, thoroughly cleaned, and re-displayed. Some artefacts are still being treated. Apart from routine inspections and monthly cleaning at **MUŽA**, onsite inspections and various test pieces on walls and furniture were also carried out at the **Inquisitor's Palace**.

The following is a list of paintings with their decorative frame completed this year:

- Full length portrait of Grand Master Hompesch – HM16/27/2014
- Full length portrait of Catherine the Great – HM16/2/2019
- Full length portrait of Leopold II of the Holy Roman Emperor – HM16/5/2019
- Full length portrait of Charles IV of Spain – HM16/3/2019
- Full length portrait of Joseph I of the Holy Roman Emperor – HM16/6/2019
- Full length portrait of Charles VI of the Holy Roman Emperor – HM16/4/2019
- Portrait of Mons. Salvatore Imbroll (19th century) – Hm16/63/2014
- View of the Town and Port of Bayonne by Morlete Ruiz – HM16/23/2019
- View of Bordeaux from Saliniers by Morlete Ruiz – HM16/24/2019
- Christ bearing the cross (after Guido Reni) – HM16/19/2019
- Portrait of a lady by the circle of Van Scorel (panel painting) – HM16/30/2019

- Virgin and child with donor (after Van Dyke) – N/A
- Landscape (19th century) – HM16/68/2019
- Landscape with figures (17th century) – HM16/70/2019

The set of 17 paintings by Morlete Ruiz at San Anton and Verdala has now been completed, while the following are still in progress:

- Rustic landscape (19th century) – HM16/67/2019
- Landscape with ruins (probably 19th century) – HM16/71/2019
- Landscape (style of Salvator Rosa, 19th century) – HM16/69/2019
- Il Grano D’Altre Mare by A. Barrera – HM16/65/2019

The department also completed the conservation of the following wooden artefacts:

- Lot of five 17th century chairs from the Inquisitor’s Palace – HM16/19/2019
- Set of two 19th century cabinets – HM16/115/2019 (object numbers 61977, 61978)
- Weaving loom from the Gozo collection – HM16/75/2019
- Spinning wheel from the Gozo Collection – HM16/76/2019

The following wooden artefacts are still in progress:

- Mixed carpenters tools from the Gozo collection (lot 4) - HM16/08/2019
- Mixed tools from the Gozo collection (lot of 36 objects) – HM16/9/2019

Works completed by the **Wood Laboratory** include the following:

- Minimal intervention on a Child’s Bureau (18th century) – N/A
- Wine press from the Gozo collection – HM16/50/2017
- Carpenters’ tools (lot 1) from the Gozo collection – HM16/7/ 2019
- Seven agricultural tools (lot 4) – HM16/10/2019
- Routine interventions on the Palace carriage
- The French mantelpiece clock (18th century) – HM16/159/2013 is still ongoing.

Textiles, Books and Paper Department

Besides assisting in the mounting of various exhibitions, staff from this department also tackled the various challenges presented by the storage of the major uniform/textile collections, especially at the Inquisitor’s Palace, Gozo, the Malta Maritime Museum and Fort St Elmo, including the organisation of the required anoxia treatment.

The following list of projects were completed:

- Tail coat (frock coat) – HM16/594/2015
- Sofas and chairs at the Grand Master’s Palace – HM16/20/2019
- Sofas and chairs at the Grand Master’s Palace – HM16/21/2019
- Sofas and chairs at the Grand Master’s Palace – HM16/22/2019
- Complete set of uniforms from St Elmo – HM16/76/2018 (object numbers 61706-61747)

- Complete set of uniforms from St Elmo – HM16/78/2019 (61748-71749)
- Donation of 16 items including various hats and textile items – HM16/29/2019 (72191i - 72203)
- Beaded jacket – HM16/23/2017
- Two uniforms from the Police Head Quarters – N/A
- Three archival boxes and mounts for fans, MUZA – HM16/60/2017, HM16/61/2017, HM16/66/2017
- Three uniform for Fort St Angelo – HM16/45/2019 (61953-61956)
- Flag for Fort St Angelo exhibition – N/A
- Complete uniforms for Fort St Elmo – HM16/76/2018, (61706-61747) HM16/78/2018 (61748-61749)
- Twenty-one items from the Zammit Haber donation, Gozo – HM16/28/2019 (79232-79249) 79232-79253)
- *Ghonnella* mounting – HM16/89/2019

The following projects concerning flat works were completed at the **Books and Paper Laboratory**:

- Frame for the Fungus Rock of Gozo, watercolour – HM16/31/2018
- Frame for Gozo Boat entering the harbour, watercolour – HM16/38/2018
- Three frames for *Wied il-Għasel* (61684), St Paul's Bay (61685), Portrait of V. Hyzler's Mother (61687) – HM16/73/2018
- Two frames for Gozo scenes 1 and 2, pencil sketches by Schranz – HM16/61/2018
- Five medals 1939 – 1945, P. Loughermo – HM16/22/2018
- Mount for a set of three medals – HM16/24/2018 (object numbers 61488 – 61490)
- Mount for a medal (NWM) Identity disc: J Buttigieg – HM16/25/2018
- Works on paper batch 2, L. Cole, drawings – HM16/73/2018
- Engraving of Cardinal Fabrizio Verelli – HM16/40/2019
- Palazzo Monte Citorio by A. Specchi – HM16/80/2019
- Palazzo Chigi by A. Specchi – HM16/81/2019
- 18th century booklet, Maltese and Foreign Coins – HM16/85/2018
- Two prints by Julian Trevelyan for the Gozo Museum – HM16/88/2019
- Book from the Maritime Museum 1821 – HM16/39/2019
- Mid-18th century watercolour depicting the Palace and St John's – HM16/86/2019
- Six photos Scolaro drawings – HM16/99/2019
- Panorama print by Schranz – N/A
- Six mounts for Raphael Vella's cabinet at MUZA – N/A
- Two frames for View of Marina by W. Anderson and View of Marina by Schranz – HM16/73/2018 (object numbers 61681 – 61682)
- Mounting and framing of two presidential photographs – HM16/32/2019
- Plan of Alexander Ball Monument – HM16/21/2017
- Two books for the *Sette Giugno* exhibition – HM16/46/2019
- Study of a hand – HM16/96/2019
- View of Marina with Neptune Fountain – HM16/96/2019

- Portrait of Sir Thomas Maitland – HM16/96/2019
- St Francis removing his clothes – HM16/96/2019
- Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane – HM16/96/2019
- Abstract by Emvin Cremona – HM16/96/2019
- Constantinople 1843 – HM16/100/2019
- Map of Malta after Quintinus – HM16/100/2019
- Illustrated manuscript – HM16/100/2019 (object number 61581)
- Illustrated manuscript – HM16/100/2019 (object number 61588)
- Madonna and Child by Bellanti – HM16/100/2019
- Contadina Maltese – HM16/100/2019 (object number 80514)
- Contadina Maltese – HM16/100/2019 (object number 62618)
- Marsa bridge – HM16/100/2019
- Portrait of P.P. Caruana – HM16/100/2019
- Political satire – HM16/100/2019 (object number 61596)
- Political satire – HM16/100/2019 (object number 61593)
- Portrait of Michele Busuttil – HM16/100/2019
- Abstract by Victor Pasmore – HM16/100/2019
- Acqua Dolci – HM16/100/2019
- St Michael – HM16/100/2019 (object number 60702)
- Portrait of Raffaello – HM16/100/2019
- Booklet map – HM16/52/2017
- Twenty five Sciortino drawings, pen and pencil – HM16/142/2015
- Japanese triptych – N/A
- Chevalier Chevalerie Templiers Turquie – Pierre d' Aubusson -la- Feullade 1840 prints (MMM) – HM16/231/2014
- Malta, Gozo, Maltese Shipping Sikh, Singh print 1903 (MMM) – HM16/251/2014
- Archduke Rudolf of Austria, Duke Edinburgh, Malta, opera prints (MMM) – HM16/253/2014
- Villiers De L'Isle Adam- Ordre Saint Jean De Jerusalem prints (MMM) – HM16/258/2014
- Engraving of Charles V (MMM) – HM16/82/2015
- Three photographs for the 'Behind Closed Doors' exhibition – HM16/32/2019
- Envelope with printed advert for the 'Behind Closed Doors' exhibition – HM16/26/2019
- Archival box and interleaves for Alex Attard, 27 B&W photographs- MUZA – N/A
- Pen drawing of an altar front by Bellanti – HM16/70/2018
- Two studies in pencil and ink by G. Cali – HM16/67/2018 (object numbers 61657-61658)
- Trapped birds cartoon, MLP Ribelli, and political caricature by Alfred Gerada – HM16/54/2018 (object numbers 61693-94)
- Mounts and frames for seven flat works by Schranz (MUZA) – HM16/88/2017 (object numbers 61039 – 61047-52)
- Government Gazette 1826 – HM16/39/2019
- Government Gazette 1829 – HM16/39/2019
- Government Gazette 1832 – HM16/39/2019

- Government Gazette 1823 – HM16/39/2019
- Government Gazette 1824 – HM16/39/2019
- Government Gazette 1830 – HM16/39/2019
- Six leather chairs (MUZA) – HM16/73/2019 (object number 62001)

Stone, Ceramics, Metals, Glass and Underwater Department

The major priority of the Objects Department was the conservation of the **Megalithic Temples**, involving mainly pointing of cracks, filling in and reconstruction using the plastic repair technique. The team's focus this year was mainly on the Tarxien Temples (HM 6/35/2019) and Ġgantija Temples (HM 6/36/2019) although some plastic repair techniques were also carried out at Mnajdra (HM 6/38/2019). For the very first time in Malta the conservators introduced the black lime technique (*ġir iswed*) which is being applied at the Tarxien Temples. This is a technique where pieces of burnt wood are mixed together with lime producing a very porous material. This spotted type of lime mortar was one of the main types of mortar used in the past in the Maltese Islands especially as a pointing mortar. Unfortunately use of such a technique was greatly reduced as from the mid-20th century. It was decided along with the curators to introduce this material as a pointing mortar within the North Temples. Another ongoing project concerning the temples is the conservation assessment. This year Tarxien Temples, Borġ in-Nadur and Kordin Temples were assessed. Assessment involves the identification of deterioration phenomena and its location for each megalith. This exercise will aid to prioritise conservation works.

Another important ongoing project is the conservation of the **Palace Armoury** collection in view of the ongoing Palace project. This included corridor suits of armour and the conservation a large number of metal swords and rapiers, full suits of armour and pieces of different armour.

Conservators of the department have also contributed directly in the setting up of various exhibitions.

The conservation programme of **national monuments** continued. The year started off with two interesting projects for the department, the restoration-conservation of two *Sette Giugno* monuments (HM16/48/2019 and HM16/49/2019) one at St George's Square in Valletta and the other at the Addolorata Cemetery in time for the centenary commemorations. Works involved the cleaning and re-applications of protective coatings to the bronze monument. A number of missing bronze letters were also purchased and fixed in place. The Independence monument in Floriana also underwent a similar treatment in time for the anniversary celebrations (HM16/103/2019). The bronze was found to be in a very good state of preservation even though thirty years have passed since its inauguration in 1989. Another very important project concerns the conservation-restoration of the bronze statue of *Nettuno* (HM16/111/2019) in the Palace courtyard. The removal of the statue from its pedestal was an arduous task. The statue is currently being analytically studied in order to have a better understanding of the material and techniques used.

Conservators of the department also participated directly in the reburial of the *Natatio* of the Ġhajn Tuffieħa Roman Baths in order to preserve the site for future generations. Works involved the lining of geo-textile, filling in and supporting rubble walls with sand filled sacks, and covering with foreign aggregate.

The department also continued the conservation programme of **underwater** artefacts. An interesting project for the department this year is an aircraft engine Sunderland (pre-World War II). A lot of technical research on the topic is still ongoing. The list of current projects is as follows:

- Machine gun, bullet, radio – HM16/52/2019
- Machine gun – HM16/54/2019
- Half bell – HM16/51/2019
- Two lanterns – HM16/53/2019
- Sunderland engine – HM16/53/2019

Other notable projects comprise the conservation of artefacts from MUŻA, including a number of plaster casts of Antonio Sciortino, and work on major ceramic collections at the National Museum of Archaeology and the Inquisitor's Palace (which were later selected for display in two exhibitions). A small collection of ceramic pieces from St Gregory church in Żejtun was cleaned and adhered (HM16/90/2019). A considerable number of metal artefacts from the National War Museum were also conserved, mostly on site, while a ceramic sign of Palace Square, which had been broken in multiple pieces, was put together and prepared for eventual display. The objects conservators were also involved in other related projects such as helping out in setting up exhibitions, and the monthly inspection and maintenance of various museums.

The following is a list of other projects completed during the year:

- Ceramic collection, twenty-nine items – HM16/96/2018
- Collection of forty metal artefacts – HM16/27/2019
- Forty rapiers/swords – HM16/47/2019
- Metal chandelier – HM6/13/2019
- Metal chandelier – HM 6/12/2019
- Metal pix – HM 6/14/2019
- Wood/metal crucifix – HM 6/11/2019
- 'Elsa' skull (St Paul's Catacombs) – HM 6/25/2019, HM16/85/2017
- Various plaster casts – HM 6/85/2017
- Ta' Ġawhar ceramics – HM 6/82/2019
- Two breast plates – HM16/55/2019
- Lot of coins, buttons, bone – HM 6/79/2019
- Wignacourt parade armour – HM 6/93/2019
- Pompeo de la Cesa shield – HM 6/93/2019
- Pompeo de la Cesa gorget – HM 6/93/2019
- Pompeo de la Cesa breastplate – HM 6/93/2019
- Decorative half armour suit and shield – HM 6/93/2019

- Peascod breastplate and back-plate and two lower canons – HM16/93/2019
- Parts of vine-leaf armour x3 – HM16/93/2019
- Eleven decorative breastplates and back-plates – HM16/93/2019
- Three decorated pauldrons – HM16/93/2019
- Seven decorated arm pieces – HM16/93/2019
- One decorated gorget – HM16/93/2019
- Nine decorative tassets – HM16/93/2019
- Ten decorative shields – HM16/93/2019
- Eight candle holders – HM16/112/2019
- Tal-Pilar two church bells and arm – HM16/94/2019
- Ceramic collection c.100 pieces – HM16/96/2018
- Large silver lantern – HM16/85/2017
- Christ roundel – HM16/85/2017
- Three coins excavation – HM16/92/2019

Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL)

During the year under review the DSL acquired the ATR-FTIR Microscope system and underwent the required training. A tender for the acquisition of an IC system was also issued with system delivery, installation and commissioning being expected in early 2020. The setting up of the Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit (UCHU) also required a conservation action plan, submitted in August, with the first items being procured to support the electrolytic treatment of underwater objects. In this respect, in February a visit was conducted at Arc Antique in Nantes, France as a familiarisation exercise towards what type of setup and resource is needed for the UCHU conservation branch.

DSL continued implementing its **IAEA national project MAT1001**. In January an expert from ICR in Catania and another the University of Torino visited DSL and presented a series of lectures and discussions on cultural heritage applications of XRD. A micro-portable system was also brought over to DSL for practical sessions. Both experts aided DSL in what to look out for with respect to current technologies that are best applied to the sector.

A scientific visit to the *Opificio delle Pietre Dure* in Florence followed in November. This visit revolved around the application of imaging systems for cultural heritage, particularly current interpretation potential and limitations of x-radiography. This was planned in anticipation to support DSL's quest to obtain certification for autonomous use of its system. An online course and exam, followed by practical experience exercises will be concluded in early 2020.

Moreover, following Heritage Malta's initial plan to purchase a micro-XRD and Handheld XRF via an internal €300,000 budget, the IAEA donated €150,000 to the cause, even though this was not prescribed within the MAT1001 programme. Thus both systems will be procured on a 50:50% cost sharing initiative, with the systems' targeted delivered early in 2020.

DSL also continued its **public outreach and dissemination**. In May it took part in an 'Evening with a Scientist', hosted by Café Scientifique Gozo in Victoria. The presentation included case studies, highlighting why science exists in this sector and how it can unravel so many complexities and discover unknowns. In August DSL participated in Family Science Days, at Esplora. This event targeted youngsters to explore science via applicable means. DSL hosted the use of a microscope to explain pigment work and Reflectance Spectroscopy as a tool of measuring colour to identify pigments. In September DSL once again took part in Science in the City, this time at MUZA, by organising four talks revolving around Art Detective work. Three case studies were presented, supported by live analysis and public interaction. This event was repeated in November during the MUZA open day.

In May DSL represented Heritage Malta at the Latvian Society of Restorers' 30th anniversary conference. The manager was invited as an international guest speaker to present how heritage science is applied in Malta, with particular highlights on the lab's infrastructure, conservation support and impacts on the local educational and academic sectors. This served as an opportunity to share local application experience but also realise that improvements are being recognised on the international circuit.

During the year a total of twenty-five **projects** were concluded. These were split into twelve Heritage Malta conservation and curatorial projects and thirteen external projects. The latter were split into six private conservation projects, six private industry projects and one Restoration Directorate project. Pending open projects amount to a total of forty, 32 of which pertain to the internal conservation and curatorial domains and eight external projects. External projects undertaken by DSL brought an income of €4,574 (exclusive of VAT). The current external projects will bring in an additional income of €4,792 (exclusive of VAT).

The Preventive Conservation Unit has continued its support towards preventive conservation by way of environmental monitoring and support at various museums and sites. Foremost was the mould problem at MUZA since July. DSL's contribution in an interdisciplinary team was important to stabilise the situation and to contract an external engineering consultant expert to advise on how to tackle this problem.

5. EDUCATION, PUBLICATIONS AND OUTREACH

During the year under review further work was carried out to consolidate the initiatives of preceding years, concerning mainly the creation of didactic resources for teachers and students and the production and delivery of a series of thematic and hands-on sessions in the various museums and sites. All sessions and resources are produced in full sync with the Outcomes and Outputs of the National Curriculum Framework.

The ultimate objective of such work is to change the perception that a visit to a museum is nothing more than a fun outing with the learning of historical facts as an added bonus. Each thematic activity is focused on a particular event or period in history which students are taught about in class, so that the visit to the museum becomes a relevant and important part in the learning experience. As much as possible the activities are programmed to coincide with the particular time that specific aspect of history is being taught. Since most activities are cross curricular in nature, the fluidity and interconnectedness between different subject matters is evidenced. Most thematic activities are designed in close collaboration with the various Education Officers in charge of the subjects being tackled, and have the full support of the Education Division.

Activities were open to all schools and for every level, from kindergarten to post-secondary. With the knowledge that everyone has different learning abilities and skills, we have continued diversifying activities with the aim of reaching out to students who have different abilities and challenging backgrounds. Thematic programmes were specifically developed for students that fall within the Core Curriculum Programme and to schools whose students face difficult challenges such as the Helen Keller Education Resource Centre.

Students from kindergarten to university, as well as teachers, are given free access to all Heritage Malta sites and museums when they visit as part of an organised school visit. This concession is also extended to groups which have a social aim in visiting museums such as the 'I Belong' group which aims to integrate immigrants taking permanent residence in Malta.

Events

A series of events targeting families, audiences with different abilities and the general public were also organised. Worthy of particular mention are the *Xalata ta' Kitba* series of events in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, the High5 activities in collaboration with the Mathematics Department, a number of events in collaboration with Malta Tourism Authority, seminars for Educational Officers, and workshops for people suffering from Alzheimer, for the visually and hearing impaired. An introductory course about Maltese History spread over twelve lectures was also delivered to the Corradino Correctional Facility inmates between January and May. A number of activities were also organised for all students attending *Skola Sajf*. A series of outreach talks in schools were also delivered regarding *L-Arkeologija Marittima* and *Niskopru l-*

Ipoġew ta' Hal Saflieni. The full list of activities, including thematic and hands-on sessions, is found in Appendix I.

The Heritage Malta Student Passport

This scheme, launched on 29 November 2018, gives free access to students attending primary and secondary schools and any two accompanying adults to all Heritage Malta sites and museums (except for the Hypogeum). Students and accompanying adults may visit museums as many times as they want. The passport is stamped each time they visit. With every ten stamps a Visa is given to the student, while with twenty visits two Visas are given. When all Heritage Malta sites and museums have been visited, a visa that allows the student and one adult free entry to the Hypogeum is granted. Visas give students and adults the chance to visit sites that are not usually open to the public. Such sites this year included Kordin Temples, the Marsalforn fougasse (for the very first time – including the Qolla l-Bajda battery) and San Pawl Milqi. Other unusual Student Passport events offered this year included Meet and Greet Michela Eurovision contest winner, and a behind the scenes meeting with the cast of *L-Għarusa*.

A Summer Programme running from July till September was also launched and delivered for the first time to students and accompanying adults. Topics covered in the events included art, creative writing, storytelling and comic drawing. A total of thirty activities were offered. A number of promotions were also created in order to encourage students to visit more museums through this scheme. A number of goodie bags which held stationary, books and other promotional material were given for free to students who visit Heritage Malta sites and museums in Valletta and the Citadel during their Christmas holidays from 21 December to 7 January 2020, while a similar initiative was held for those who visited Heritage Malta's Rabat and Mdina Sites during March.

This scheme has proved to be extremely successful with 51,696 child admissions together with 63,621 accompanying adults being registered until 31 December. Passports will be offered to all students going up to Year 1 each year.

The Heritage Malta Senior Passport

Following the success of the Heritage Malta Student Passport scheme and positive feedback received from all sectors, on 16 May Heritage Malta launched a similar scheme aimed at senior citizens – the Heritage Malta Senior Passport. With this passport, an elder and two accompanying youths have free and unlimited access to all Heritage Malta sites and museums (except the Hypogeum). This scheme is supported by the Local Councils' Association, and has also been a great success, with more than 20,400 availing themselves of this opportunity by the end of the year. A number of activities were held for Senior Passport holders in various museums and sites as listed in Appendix I.

PUBLICATIONS

The publishing arm of the Agency continued to build on the achievements registered in recent years in order to increase accessibility to the assets in its care, enhance Heritage Malta's corporate image, and produce quality merchandise for the museum shops. It also represented the agency in the National Book Fair for the seventh consecutive year with encouraging results.

The development of didactic resources included the creation of interactive workbooks, the continuation of production of the series of die cut bookmarks, and Portal issues marking important milestones in Malta's history, specific worksheets, colouring sheets and cards among others.

The complete titles published during 2019, which proved to be a record year in this respect, were the following:

Books and Exhibition Catalogues

Tesserae 8, Spring 2019

Behind Closed Doors, Fort St Angelo & the Royal Navy, 1906-1979 – exhibition catalogue

Kulhadd għall-Belt, Sette Giugno 1919-2019 – exhibition catalogue

Lunch at the Grand Master's Hunting Lodge, Taste History-Mnarja – souvenir menu

Ta' Ġawhar Tower, Gold, Bread and Fire – Espresso Exhibition Series, No. 7

The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th-century Malta – Espresso Exhibition Series, No. 8

Contemporary Art in Malta, Vol 2

The Heritage Malta Official Guide to Tarxien Temples

Iċ-Ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija Addolorata – storja, arti u personalitajiet

Wicked Ghost Stories

Review & reprint of 'MUŻA Project Book'

Malta's Prehistoric Treasures

Heritage Malta Museum & Sites... The Mediterranean in a Nutshell

Tesserae 9, Autumn 2019

Didactic Resources

The Inquisitor's Palace Cookalong Sessions – souvenir recipe cards (first series, x 6)

Aqra u Agħti l-Kulur – Natural Heritage series (x 6)

Behind Closed Doors, Fort St Angelo & the Royal Navy, 1906-1979 – notebook

Behind Closed Doors, Fort St Angelo & the Royal Navy, 1906-1979 – orientation map & worksheet

Kulhadd għall-Belt, Sette Giugno 1919-2019 – notebook

Kulhadd għall-Belt, Sette Giugno 1919-2019 – orientation map & worksheet

Ninni la tibkix izjed ... ninni Ġesù Bambin – Maltese crib & colouring sheet

The Inquisitors' Coats of Arms – interpretation & colouring sheet

The Portal, Issue 2 – 7 June 1919

The Portal, Issue 3 – 8 September 1943

The Portal, Issue 4 – 21 September 1964

The Portal, Issue 5 – 13 December 1974

The Portal, Issue 6 – 31 March 1979

The Portal, Issue 7 – 1 May 2004

Ktieb ta' ħidma No. 5 – *Għar Dalam*

Ktieb ta' Hidma, No. 6 – *Il-Ħabs il-Qadim*

40 sena mit-Tluq tal-Qawwiet Militari Barranin – die cut bookmark

100 sena mill-irvell tal-Maltin kontra l-Gvern Kolonjali – die cut bookmark

30 sena mit-tmiem tal-Gwerra Bierda – die cut bookmark

Corporate Publications

Multipurpose Paper Folder (A4 size)

Merchandise

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 9 – *MUŻA*

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 10 – *Gran Salon, National Museum of Archaeology*

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 11 – *National Museum of Natural History*

The Heritage Malta Picture Calendar 2020

Colouring History, Malta and Gozo through the ages – Storja Animalta Colouring Book

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 12 – *St Paul's Catacombs*

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 13 – *Fort St Angelo*

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 14 – *Malta Maritime Museum*

Heritage Malta Notepad Series, No. 15 – *Gozo Museum of Archaeology*

6. CORPORATE

Heritage Malta currently employs 302 full time employees; of which 199 are male (66%) while 103 are female (34%). The agency also employs six apprentices and has twelve employees on loan. Thirty-two internal promotions were issued during the year. These varied from managers to other posts in different collective agreement grades. Fourteen employees left the agency due to various reasons. One employment was terminated since it was a back to back contract. Seven employees resigned, five retired and one due to revocation of detailing.

This year Heritage Malta was allocated eighteen new posts and brought forward one post from last year's entitlement. These were possible since the agency is growing at a fast pace. The positions were filled as follows: four clerks (visitor services and events assistant), three coordinators (digital marketing and curatorial supports in different departments), one curator (costumes and textiles), one executive (visitor services), four senior clerks (visitor services, human resources and publishing), three general hands, one skilled tradesman (lifts and air-conditioning), and two technicians (one brought forward from 2018 filled with revocation of detailing and one ICT technician pending).

A total of 632 instances of absenteeism due to sickness were reported. The highest rate was registered in January (27%), followed by February and March (26% & 21% respectively). The lowest rate of were marked in June, April and July. Absenteeism was registered 56% by male employees while the other 44% were female employees.

On 18 April Heritage Malta reached an agreement on the new salary grades covering the period 2017 to 2019. This agreement provided a substantial average increase of 5.21% over three years. Employees in the grade of senior executives, principal curators and principal conservators have been included for the first time in grade A+ of this new salary grades. Arrears covering the period 2017 to April 2019 were distributed in the payrolls covering the months of May, June & July.

Time and energy were invested in implementing a new cloud platform for payroll, leave and attendance management which will eventually provide employees with access to a portal that allows them to securely apply for leave and view important documents. The same applies for a new programme in order to control the staff working hours, thus reducing costs and having a more accurate record.

The **Human Resources Department** was consolidated further to reflect the changes and the growing of operations of the Agency. A new manager was appointed, whose main role is to identify what unifies and motivates employees in order to develop a strategic plan around it. This new strategy is based on integration of employees, forecasting future requirements, continuous

staff training and development, freedom to be creative, performance appraisals and wellbeing. This department was also strengthened with the new role of senior executive, another executive and two senior clerks.

Numerous training opportunities were offered to employees. In-house training included a refresher course on the Maltese prehistory and conservation practises followed by a number of site visits in different prehistoric sites including the Hypogeum. Guided tours were organised in closed and in new open sites so that staff get to know and appreciate such sites, which included MUŻA, Abbatija tad-Dejr, St Augustine's Catacombs, Ta' Mintna Catacombs and Villa Frere. A cultural tour including MUŻA, the National Museum of Archaeology and Fort St Elmo was organised for all Gozo staff on three different days in April. Other refresher courses focussed on the operation and application of various systems including J-Ticket, Shireburn, the Hypogeum ticketing system and Intranet, apart from training regarding new initiatives such as the senior passport scheme.

Customer care training was provided for front of house staff. A number of mystery shopping exercises were carried out in all museums and sites in order to evaluate the ability of staff regarding customer care. A number of sessions were held once aspects in which staff were lacking were identified. A Customer Care Policy was also issued in September. First aid courses were conducted for a good number of employees, and food handling courses for employees who do not work directly in the preparation of food but are involved in serving food (Licence A), and for employees who are directly involved in the preparation of food (Licence B).

The Civil Protection Department has delivered the fire warden course for a good number of employees, while training for the Manufacture, Maintenance and Exhibitions Departments was provided by the Institute for Public Service. Employees representing different departments also participated in a course on Sustainability offered by HSBC Malta and in a number of business breakfasts and conferences such as Global HR trends summit and HR Conference 2019 organised by FHRD. Others attended conferences and training courses abroad, covering aspects such as conservation, marketing, digitisation, and participation in fairs to promote history and culture. A new four-day induction programme for new employees was also devised.

On the other hand Heritage Malta also provided training to employees of *Fondazzjoni Kreattività* on basic handling of artefacts, specifically paintings and sculptures, including contemporary artworks that often require tailor-made solutions. Training on Malta's history and culture, including guided tours in various sites and museums, is also being offered for DMC staff and hotel front liners, in collaboration with Malta Tourism Authority.

Work placements to different students in various areas were offered in collaboration with other institutions such as the Institute for Tourism Studies. Students following the courses of tour guides and the diploma in travel and tourism were offered placements as front office personnel in various sites. Other work placements were possible in collaboration with Jobs Plus through the Work Exposure and Traineeship Schemes. In both schemes students were offered different placements such as front liners, clerical jobs in procurement, digitization and collections. Yet

other placements took place in collaboration with the MEDE; sixth form students were given a number hours of work experience such as conducting custodian duties, processing the senior passport applications, helping curators collecting or processing data.

In order for members of staff to integrate more, a number of social events were organised by the Sports and Social Committee. Besides the summer barbeque and the annual Christmas gathering, these included a number of dress-down days to contribute towards voluntary organisations, and various 'meet and eat' occasions during lunch break, members of the sports and social committee cooked some meals for staff.

The **Visitor Services Department** was further consolidated with the injection of human resources to operate more efficiently, and by adding a new role of coordinator operations in order to streamline the duties of the front of house so that operations are based on regional requirements. This will help the agency focus more on the needs of museums in the specific regions, understand better visitors coming in the particular regions, and create a business development strategy targeted for each region. New procedures regarding the way forward in the sector of Manufacture and Upkeep were also implemented in Gozo.

Staff from the department participated in an Erasmus project entitled Digital Invasions for the Promotion of Cultural Heritage. The objective of the project was to improve the digital, communicative and managerial skills of European cultural and educational operators in order to make them promoters of the involvement of citizens in the valorisation of local cultural heritage. Training was held in Bevagna included direct involvement of cultural operators under the guidance of the Italian partners and the online development of interactive web platforms gathering all training materials and toolkits. Furthermore, theoretical knowledge, operational methods and innovative design tools for the digital improvement of cultural heritage and the engagement of the public through techniques of digitalisation of culture were also taught. The sites chosen for this project were Ta' Bistra Catacombs and the Inquisitor's Palace. The digital invasion event was held at the Inquisitor's Palace in November.

A new Over/Under procedure was implemented to give more ownership to front of house personnel. Whenever staff are resulting over in their end of day report, they are to deposit the extra money in a cash box; and whenever staff working in the same museum result under, they are to take maximum of €1 from the kitty box to compensate, while the rest will be deposited from their own pocket. At the end of the year any money left in the kitty box will be spent on team building activities for all staff working in the region.

The opening hours of various museums were extended in order to provide more access to our visitors, especially in the shoulder months. Fort St Elmo, Ħaġar Qim Park, Ġgantija Temples and St Paul's Catacombs extended their admission till 6pm from June to October, Fort St Angelo's opening hours were extended in September and October, while those of the National Museum of Archaeology were extended from October to December.

For the first time eight museums and sites were awarded the Quality Assured Seal for Visitor Attractions by the Malta Tourism Authority. This seal is a recognised brand associated with the ability to consistently deliver a quality product. The sites awarded this seal were Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra, Tarxien and Ġgantija Temples, the Hypogeum, St Paul's Catacombs, Fort St Angelo, Fort St Elmo (including the National War Museum) and the National Museum of Archaeology. The main aims behind this Quality Assured Seal are to assist tourists to make a more informed choice when visiting attractions, to help quality attractions gain a competitive edge, and to encourage a quality leap in the sector through the creation of benchmarks. The uniqueness and authenticity of the attractions, the impeccable state of the historical sites, the variety of interpretation methods, the extensive opening hours, cleanliness, accessibility, adequate safety and security measures, together with smart, friendly and helpful staff were among some of the commendations received by Heritage Malta in the detailed audit reports.

Several of Heritage Malta's attractions have also received awards from TripAdvisor and TripExpert, following the positive worldwide reviews about the Agency's museums and sites. Eight attractions – Fort St Elmo and the National War Museum, the National Museum of Archaeology, the Grand Master's Palace, St Paul's Catacombs, Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum, and the prehistoric temples of Ħaġar Qim, Mnajdra and Ġgantija have received the TripAdvisor *Certificate of Excellence*, the *2019 Experts' Choice Award* by TripExpert, and the *TripExpert's Best of Malta Award*. On the other hand, Fort St Angelo and Ta' Kola Windmill have received the TripAdvisor *Certificate of Excellence*, whereas the sites of Għar Dalam, Tarxien Temples and the Inquisitor's Palace were awarded the *2019 Experts' Choice Award* and *TripExpert's Best of Malta Award*. Three attractions – Ħaġar Qim Temples, St Paul's Catacombs and the National Museum of Archaeology – were honoured further by TripAdvisor with a *Certificate of Excellence – Hall of Fame*, since they received a *Certificate of Excellence* in the past five consecutive years.

Apart from the monthly management accounts and statistics reports, the **Finance Department** introduced a more detailed cost analysis exercise, and departmental accounts are being issued on a monthly basis. New policies and controls were also introduced for daily revenue collection procedures and for stock-takes of gift shop items.

A number of new projects and upgrades were implemented by the **ICT Department**. Besides all routine required services, the Jticket system was improved with new functionalities, all point-of-sale equipment was upgraded, additional CCTVs were installed at Hagar Qim Visitor Centre, new fingerprint readers were installed in all sites to better manage time and attendance, and work has commenced to further consolidate mobile and fixed telephony, including guest Wi-Fi in museums. The department was also entrusted with handling the Senior Passport Scheme and MTA Winter Wonderland Project. Moreover, a new Heritage Malta website was launched. Besides being more user-friendly, it is also more interactive with the introduction of 360 views of museums and sites and hotspots. The Intranet was upgraded and Fotoware – a web-based software to digitize and organize our archives and collections – was implemented, together with

JIRA, which now includes new filters to search for custom fields, faster project browsing, improved batching emails and better re-indexing.

The **Valletta Management Unit** was established in January 2019 as a direct outcome of the Valletta Strategy of 2016, the Valletta Management Unit (VMU) was setup to coordinate and enhance collaboration between entities working in Valletta in both the public and the private sectors. The Unit has mapped the multiple realities of Valletta as the capital city and the administrative heart of the nation, as a business and economic hub, as a cultural and touristic centre, and as a community and residence to many. More often than not these realities clash and are in direct competition. The VMU was committed to make these multiple realities collaborate, basing on mutual respect and understanding of each other's realities. In view of this it was engaged in:

Providing and assisting stakeholders with an information based approach for better informed decision: The VMU carried out a mapping exercise to document the current situation of streets and pavements. Information has also been gathered on the existing and historic service facilities and other aspects which might help intervene on the historic fabric and context in public spaces. This data allowed the development of better cleansing and maintenance strategies and approaching new projects and upgrading of accessibility around the city in a more strategic manner.

Coordinating and assisting in the upkeep and operation of Valletta: Through the Cleansing and Maintenance Division, which also had its Valletta Unit, a number of projects were executed successfully. These include the restoration of staircases, pavements and fountains. Furthermore, the upkeep of the pedestrian area was carried out such that general cleanliness is maintained. Moreover, a procedure of operation was designed to manage public spaces for events. Event space booking was maximized while paying attention to minimise the impact on Valletta as a world heritage site and on residents.

Create operational standards for stakeholders within Valletta: The Unit was actively engaged in compiling operational standards on various themes (events, lights, roads and roadworks, waste collection, construction, signs and street furniture, outdoor catering areas, pavements etc.) which complement existing legislation and assist in implementation and enforcement.

Monitoring of development proposals, major projects, events and other developments which might impinge on Valletta's UNESCO World Heritage Site status: In its role as the Site Manager of Valletta, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the VMU reported on the evolving situations of the site on regular basis. It monitored development proposals and major projects submitted to the Planning Authority for development permits. Issues and concerns were brought to the attention of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and the UNESCO Technical Committee for assessment and consideration. The unit also initiated the process of compiling a Management Plan as per UNESCO requirements for Valletta as a World Heritage Site.

Fort St Angelo

In collaboration with SMOM, a new agreement with HM was signed on 6 August whereby from 1 September 2019, Upper Fort St Angelo is available to all visitors at the Fort. In this regard, the entrance tickets price was revised to €10 Adults, €6 Seniors & Students, €4 Children. SMOM receives a share of the entrance ticket as per agreement.

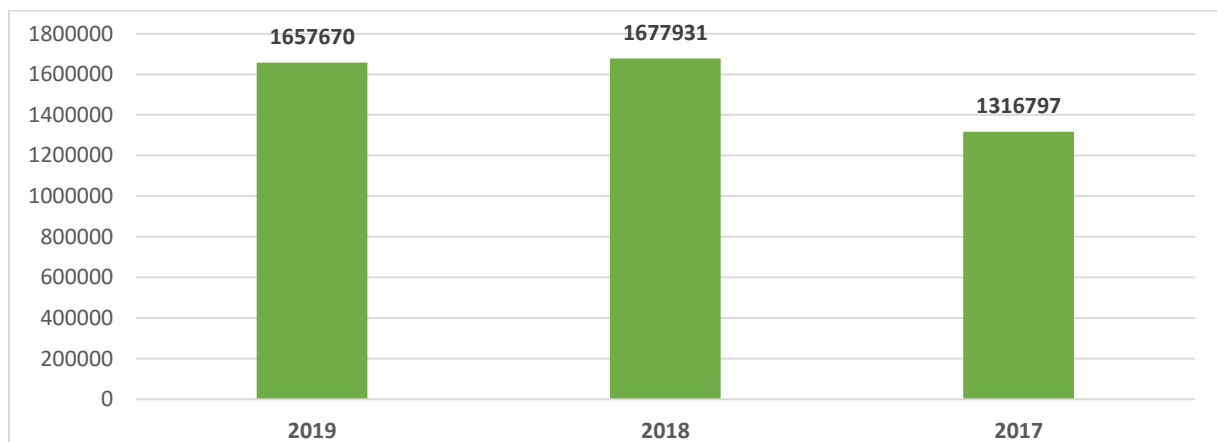
By 31 October Fort St Angelo's official Facebook page had 5,822 Likes (an increase of 730 Likes from the previous year).

7. VISITOR STATISTICS

General Overview

Paying Visitors

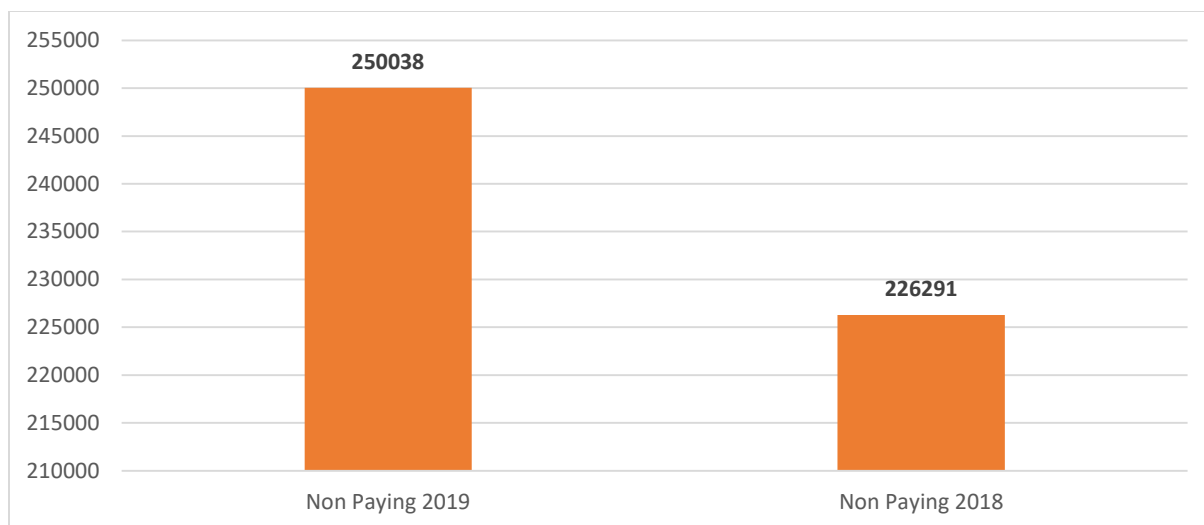
In 2019 Heritage Malta ended its year with a marginal decrease of -1.21%. In numerical terms the number of visitors has dwindled by 20,261. The number of paying visitors stood at 1,657,670. These figures also represent a surge of 25% over 2017 paying entrances. During the previous years the number of paying admissions stood at 1,677,931 in 2018 and 1,316,797 in 2017. Refer to Graph 1. The majority of museum and sites located in Malta recorded a negative performance whereas those in Gozo mostly recorded a positive increase with the exception of Ġgantija Temples.



Graph 1: The number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018 vs 2017

Non-Paying Visitors

Contrary to paying visitors, the non-paying visitors surged by 10%. Refer to Graph 2. Compared to previous year, the number of non-paying admissions have exceeded 20,000 visitors. The introduction of the student and the senior passport have had a positive impact on the non-paying admissions. Annually, the student passport scheme lured over 96,000 visitors. The senior passport scheme was launched in mid-year. In a matter of seven months it attracted more than 18,000 visitors. Further analysis is provided below.



Graph 2: Non-paying visitors 2019 vs 2018

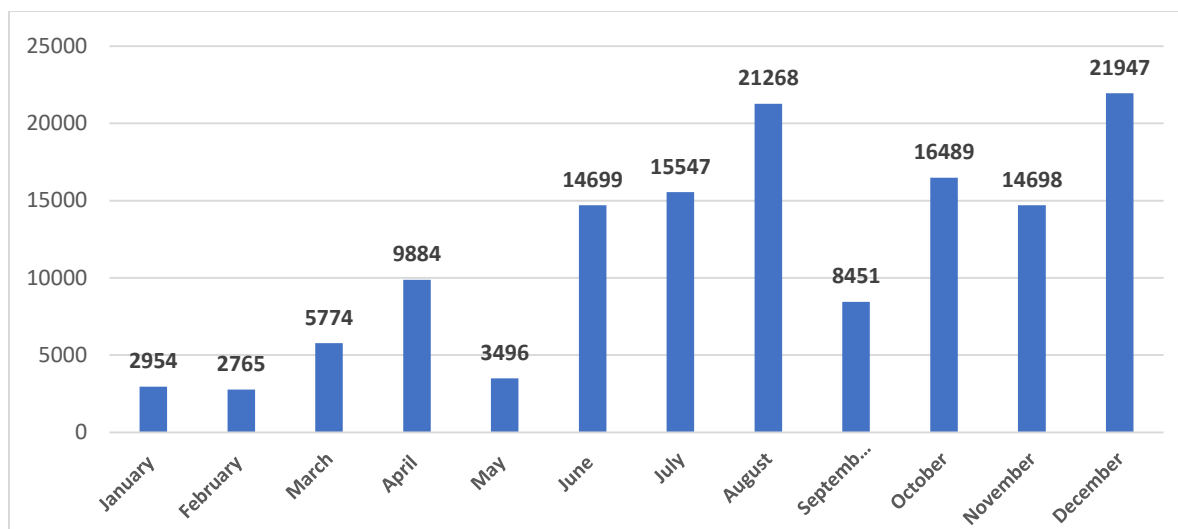
Cumulative Real Decrease Rates 2019 vs 2018

During the same period, the real decrease would have been close to -3.5% when the considerations below are taken into account. MUZA re-opened to the public on 17 December 2018, while it was open to the public throughout 2019. Fort St Elmo was closed for a period of ten consecutive days commencing from 21 September. In the absence of no pricing structure the number of walk-ins visiting the Fortress Interpretation Centre were considered non-paying visitors. As from 1 August onwards clients have been paying a price of €2 per admission. This year Borg in-Nadur regularly opened to the public. Up till June 2018 visitors were only allowed to visit the site through a special appointment.

Inbound Tourism Activity

According to the National Statistics Office the number of inbound tourists from January to December went up by 5.24% which numerically represent an additional 137,000 tourists.¹ Inbound tourism reached a record level of 2,148,294, and has consistently been robust. June, July and August, October, November and December recorded the fastest growth. In the meantime, sluggish growth was recorded during January, February and May, while moderate growth was logged in April and September. Refer to Graph 3.

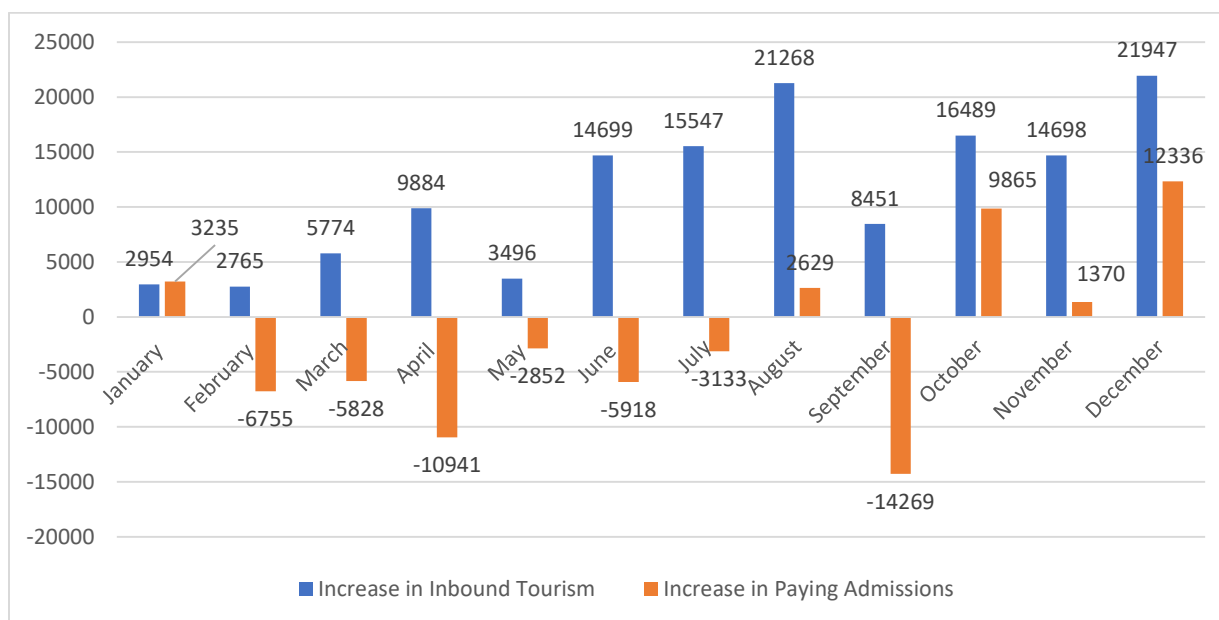
¹ NSO news release 13 March, 8 April, 7 May, 3 June, 15 July, 10 September, 7 October, 7 November, 3 December 2019; 14 January, 5 February 2020.



Graph 3: Monthly increase in inbound tourism January - December 2019 vs 2018 (Source: NSO)

Inbound Tourism & Heritage Malta Paying Admissions

Heritage Malta's business model relies heavily on the number of inbound tourists. An increase in the number of tourists is likely to result in an increase in the number of paying admissions and vice versa. Tourists coming to Malta increased by 5.24%.² During the same period, Heritage Malta saw a decline of -1.21% in the number of paying entrances. Refer to Graph 4.

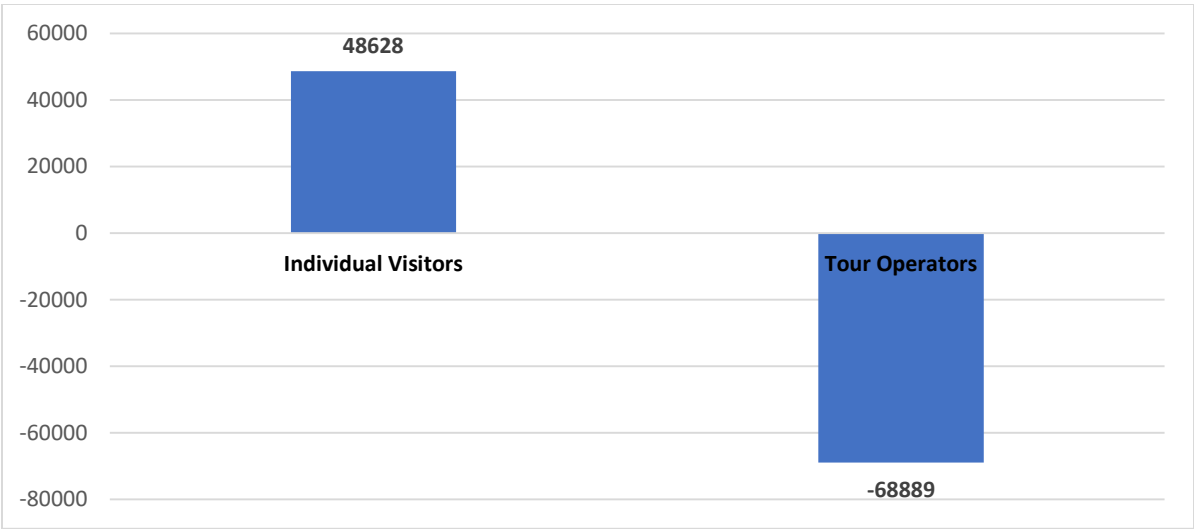


² NSO news release 5 February 2020

Graph 4: Increase/decrease in inbound tourism against increase/decrease in HM paying visitors 2019 vs 2018

Market Segmentation: Individual admissions vs tour operator admissions

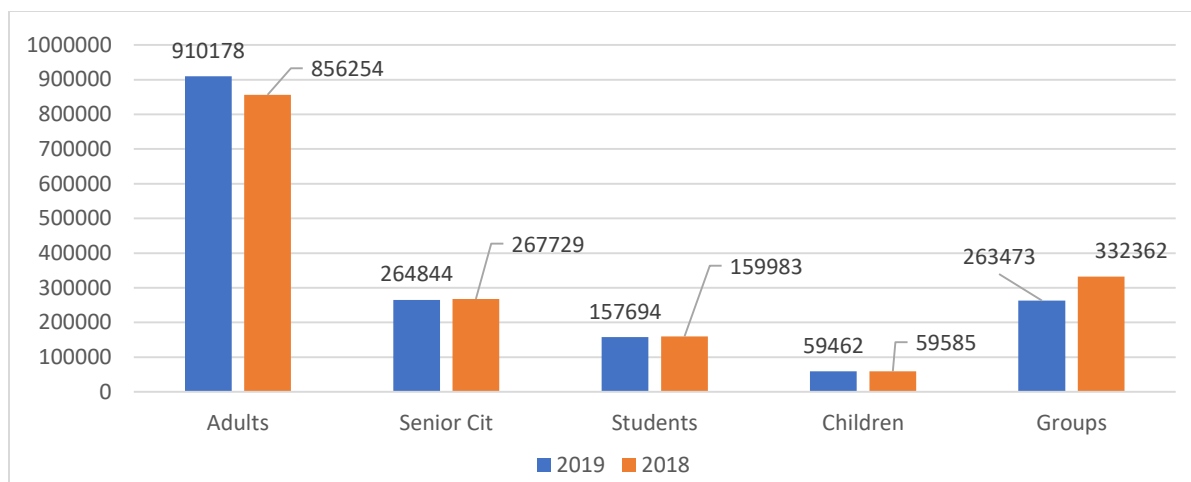
Heritage Malta has always distinguished its visitors into five main categories. This is also known as market segmentation. It is a very important tool which facilitates understanding of the current trends. At first glimpse, Heritage Malta managed to increase the number of individual entries.³ Meanwhile, the decrease arising from tour operator walk-ins have exceeded 68,000 visitors. Refer to Graph 5.



Graph 5: Increase/decrease in the number of individual and tour operator walk-ins 2019/2018

A closer statistical analysis reveals a sharp increase of 6.3% in adult visitors. During the same period both the senior and the student categories suffered an average loss of -1%. The child categories recorded a slight decrease -0.21%. Individual visitors had a net increase of 48,628 visitors. Simultaneously group walk-ins went down by -20.37%, which is equivalent to over 68,000 visitors. Refer to Graph 6.

³ Individual walk-ins include the following categories: adults, seniors, student, child and Maltapass.



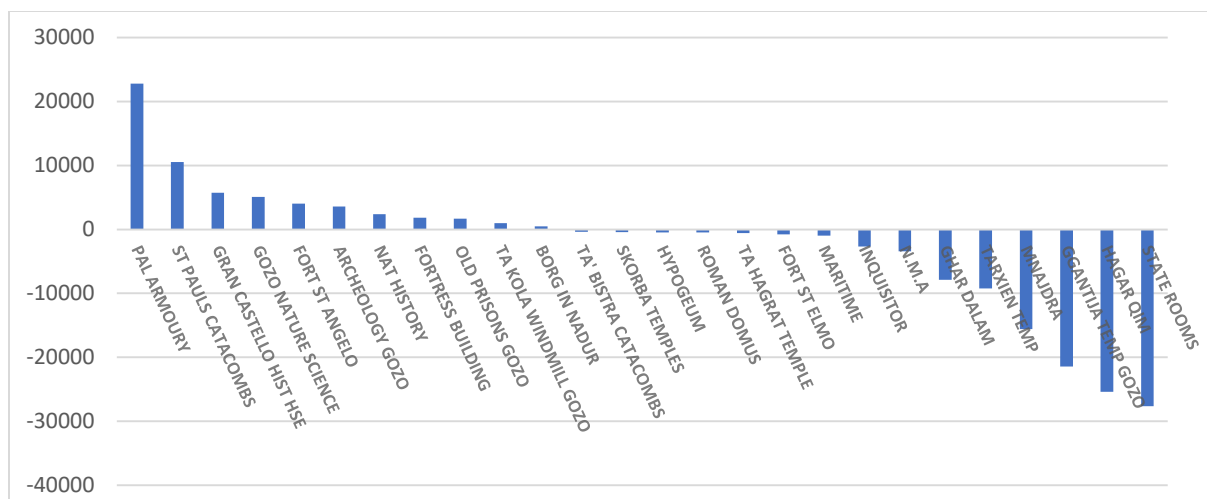
Graph 6: Changes in the number of paying admissions grouped by category

Paying Admissions 2019 vs 2018

At first glance eleven Heritage Malta sites/museum have improved their performance over the previous year, while fifteen out of twenty-six museums recorded a negative performance. The Palace Armoury saw a sharp increase in the number of admissions while the Palace State Rooms recorded heavy losses. Since the latter were not always accessible to the public, most clients shifted to the Armoury. Refer to Graph 7.

In terms of paying entrances St Paul's Catacombs experienced another bold increase. The Gran Castello Historic House, the Gozo Nature Museum and the Gozo Museum of Archaeology benefited from a moderate growth. A mild increase in paying visitors was also recorded at the Gozo Old Prisons, Ta' Kola Windmill, and Borġ in-Nadur. Refer to Graph 7.

On the other site of the spectrum, Ғaġar Qim, Ġgantija and Mnajdra temples sustained substantial losses, while Tarxien Temples, Għar Dalam, the National Museum of Archaeology and the Inquisitor's Palace registered moderate reductions in the counts of paying entrances. Losses of mild nature were noted at the Malta Maritime Museum, Fort St Elmo, Ta' Ғaġrat Temples, the Domus Romana, Hypogeum and some small open sites. Refer to Graph 7.



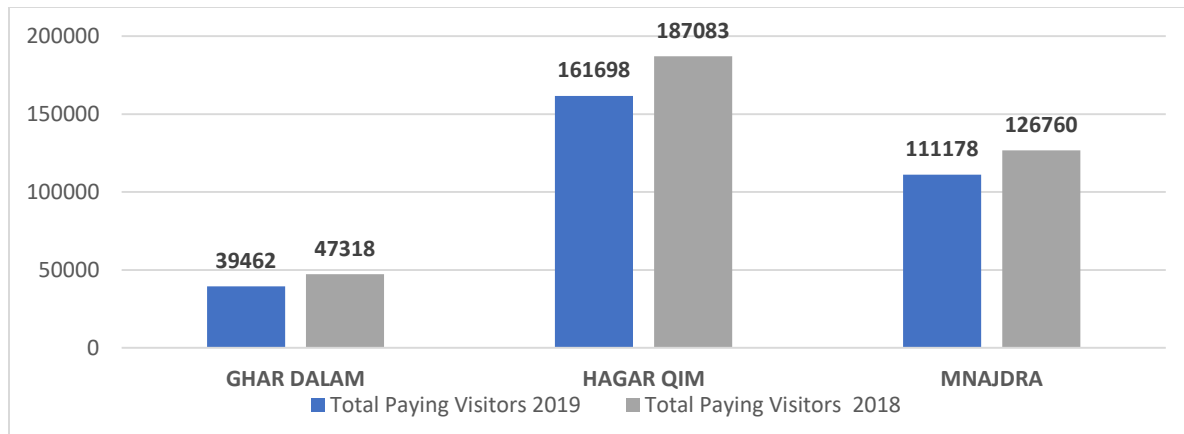
Graph 7: Increase/decrease in the number of paying admissions January – December 19/18

Regional Statistical Behaviour

In order to understand the behaviour and traits of statistics, the analysis has delved into further detail. Primarily, statistics have been split into the eight major regions namely, the Southern area, Paola & Tarxien, Rabat, the Citadel, Birgu, Valletta and the Xaghra area. Over a period of twelve months, regional statistics have been analysed on a monthly basis by augmenting and comparing the behaviour of individual and tour operator visitors.

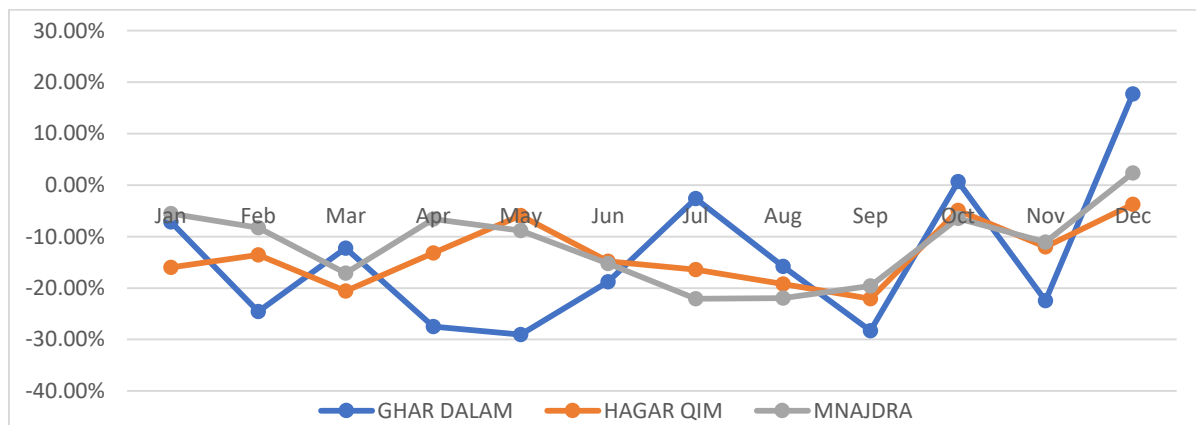
Southern Regional Statistics – Għar Dalam, Haġar Qim & Mnajdra Temples

Heritage sites located in southern area recorded an average decrease of -14.15 %. Refer to Annex 1. Haġar Qim recorded the worst results. Over a period of one year it lost over 25,000 visitors. As expected Mnajdra temples have experienced similar reductions exceeding 15,000 visitors. Għar Dalam lost over 7,800 visitors compared to the previous year. Refer to Graph 8.



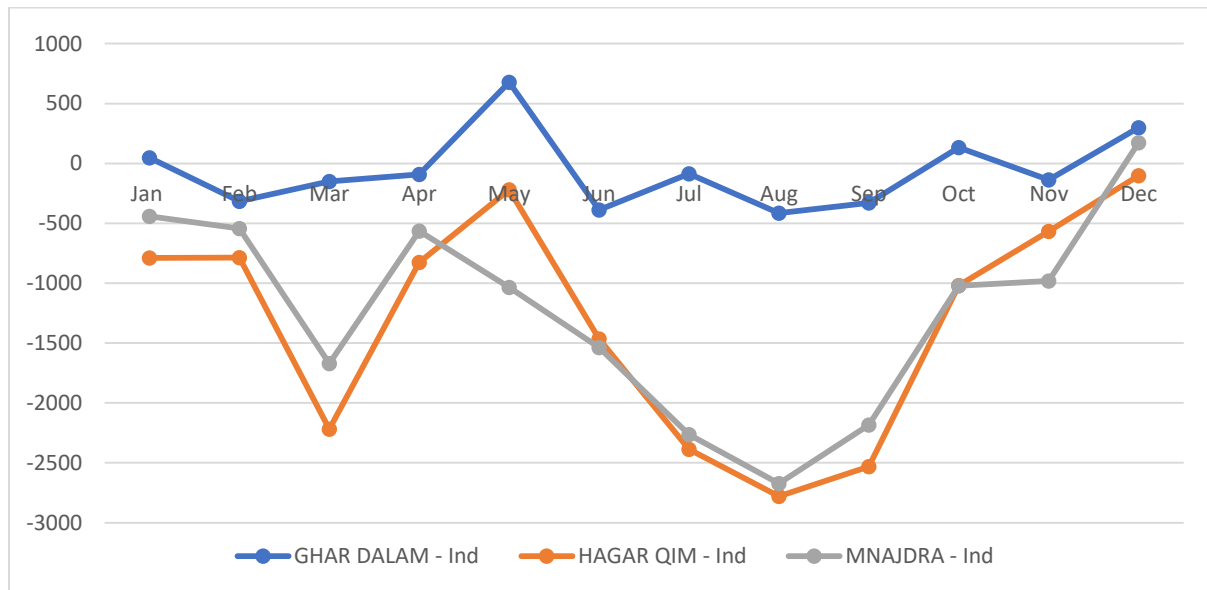
Graph 8: Paying Admissions 2019 vs 2018 for Ghar Dalam, Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples

Hagar Qim & Mnajdra Temples had a negative performance throughout the year. Exceptionally Mnajdra registered an increase in December. Simultaneously, Ghar Dalam had a saw-tooth pattern. It reached the lowest performance in May. During July it lured the same number of visitors as in previous years. In October all three sites almost converged in a positive region. Meanwhile, Ghar Dalam and Mnajdra temples surpassed the negative trend and ended in a positive region during December. Refer to Graph 9.



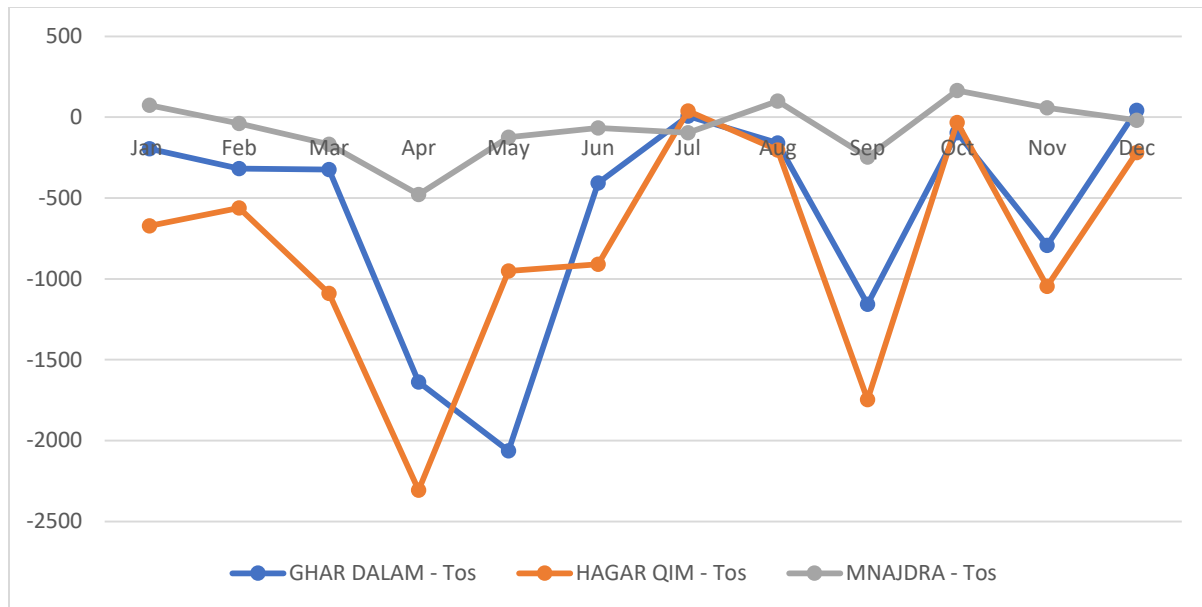
Graph 9: Southern Area - Percentage in the number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

Individual visitors both at Hagar Qim and Mnajdra Temples were mostly in negative territory. Between June and October individual visitors dwindled sharply, exhibiting an inverted bell pattern. Both sites reached a low peak in August, when over 2,500 visitors were lost. All sites in this area seems to have gradually recovered. In December, Mnajdra temples and Ghar Dalam ended in a positive territory while Hagar Qim almost broke even. Refer to Graph 10.



Graph 10: Southern Area – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

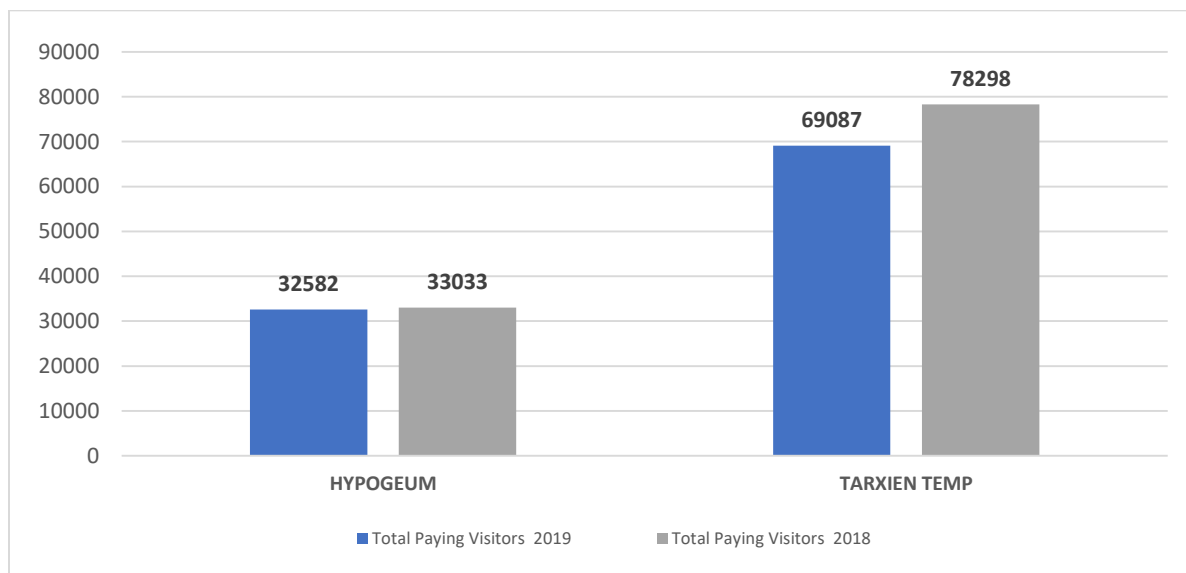
In terms of group entries, the southern area experienced contractions too. Both Hagar Qim and Ghar Dalam suffered the worst impacts. Group walk-ins at Ghar Dalam dipped to a record low during May. In April Hagar Qim experienced a similar reduction in tour operator walk-ins. Losses were reduced during June, while in July tour operators remained in the same level as previous year. Another two major reductions were logged in September and November respectively. Refer to Graph 11.



Graph 11: Southern Area – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of tour operator walk-ins 2019 vs 2018

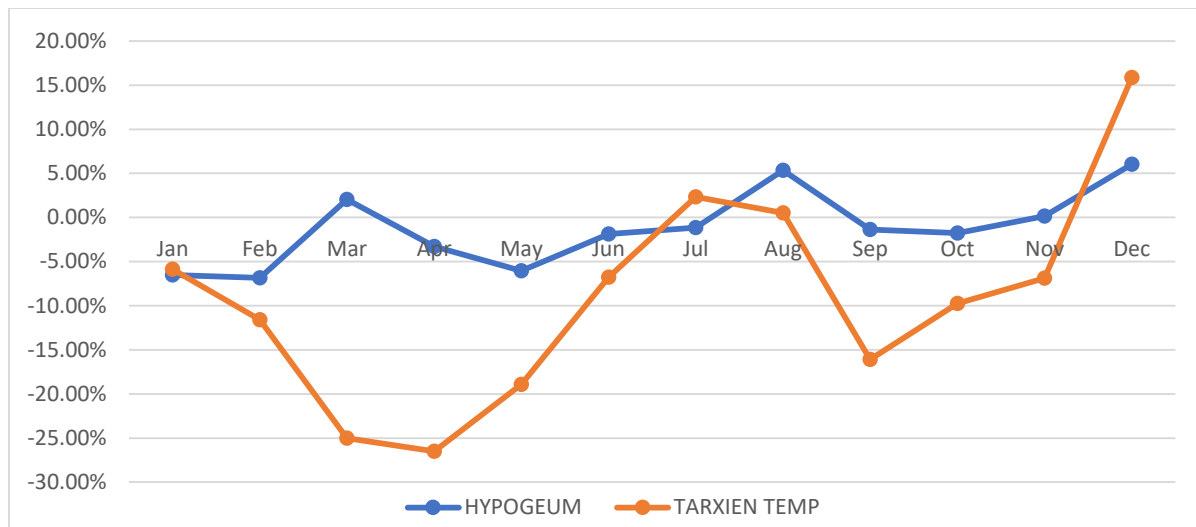
Paola & Tarxien Regional Statistics: Tarxien Temples and the Hypogeum

A stumbling performance has also been noted in the region of Paola and Tarxien. The Hypogeum endured a marginal decrease of -1.37%, while Tarxien Temples suffered a decrease of -11.76%. Refer to Graph 12.



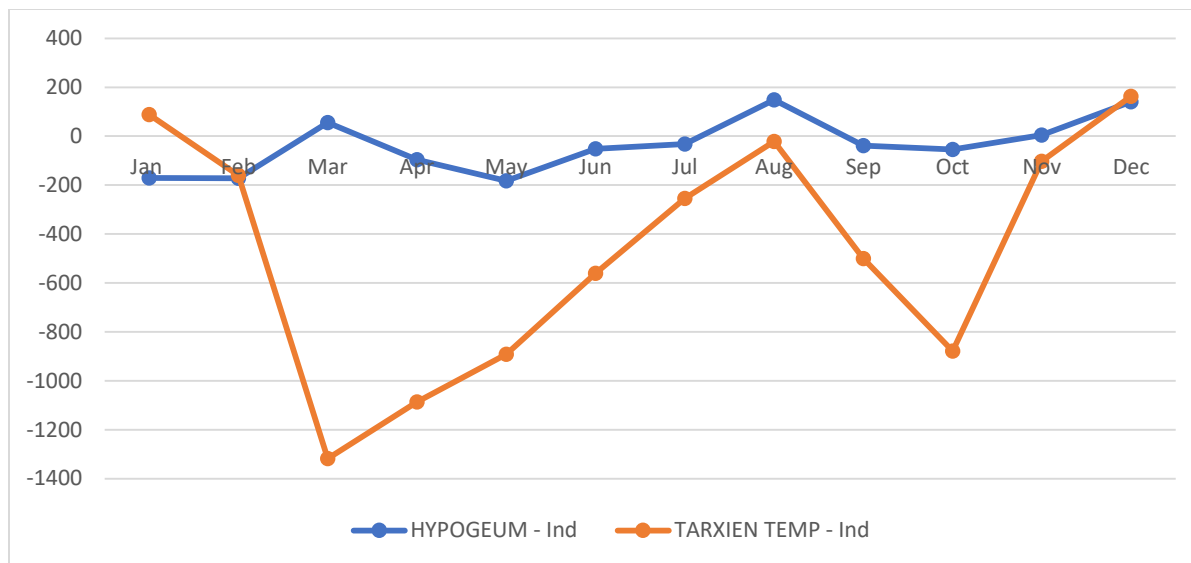
Graph 12: Paying Admissions 2019 vs 2018, for the Hypogeum and Tarxien Temples

The Hypogeum registered a minor decrease due to a constant decrease in the number of audio-visual admissions. Over a twelve-month period, audio visual entrances decreased by -11%. The Hypogeum achieved positive results during March, August, November and December. Between March and April, Tarxien Temples recorded losses of -25% each. In July Tarxien recoded positive results which were followed by three subsequent losses. Significant improvement was recorded during December. Refer to Graph 13.



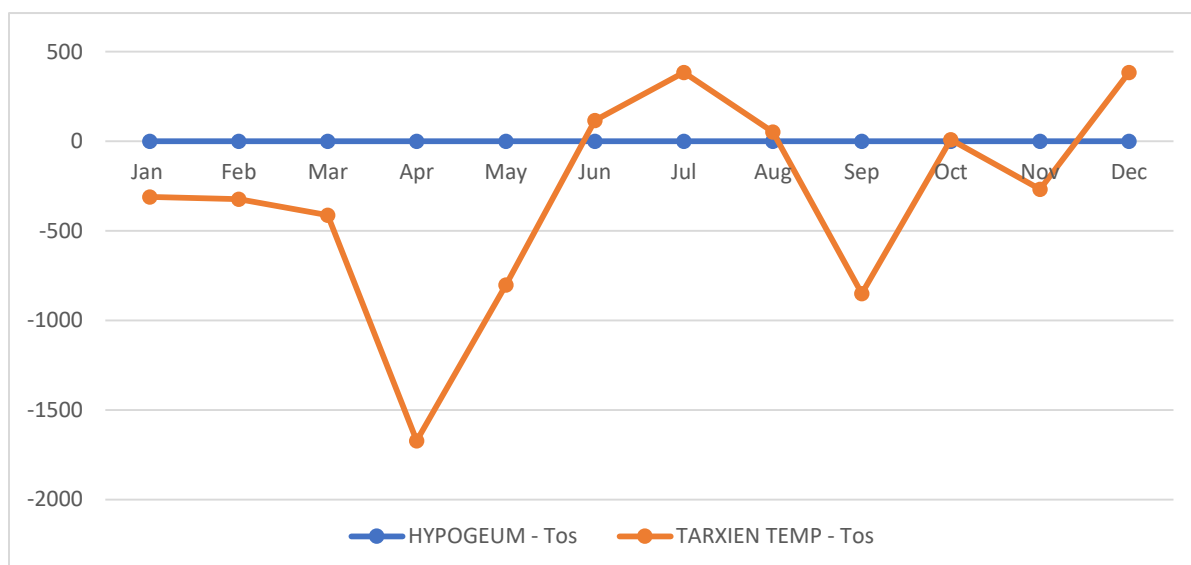
Graph 13: Paola & Tarxien Area - Percentage in the number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

Tarxien Temples recorded a decrease both in the individual and tour operator entries. During March and April it dwindled to an average of rate of -20%. Between September and November individual entries plummeted again. A positive increase in individual entries was recorded in December. Refer to Graph 14.



Graph 14: Paola & Tarxien Area – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of Individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

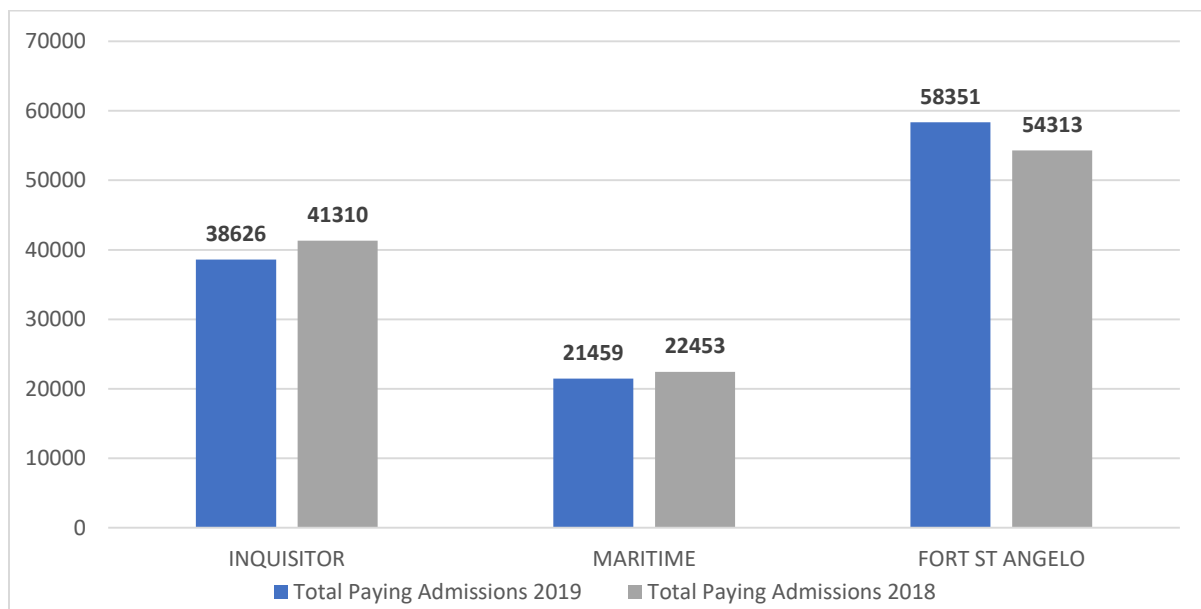
A sharp reduction in group entries was noticed in March. Nonetheless, losses were gradually bridged later on, especially between April and June. Group entries plunged again in September and November. In October Tarxien Temples maintained the same number of tour operators compared to the same period of the previous year. Refer to Graph 15.



Graph 15: Paola & Tarxien Area – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of tour operator walk-ins 2019 vs 2018

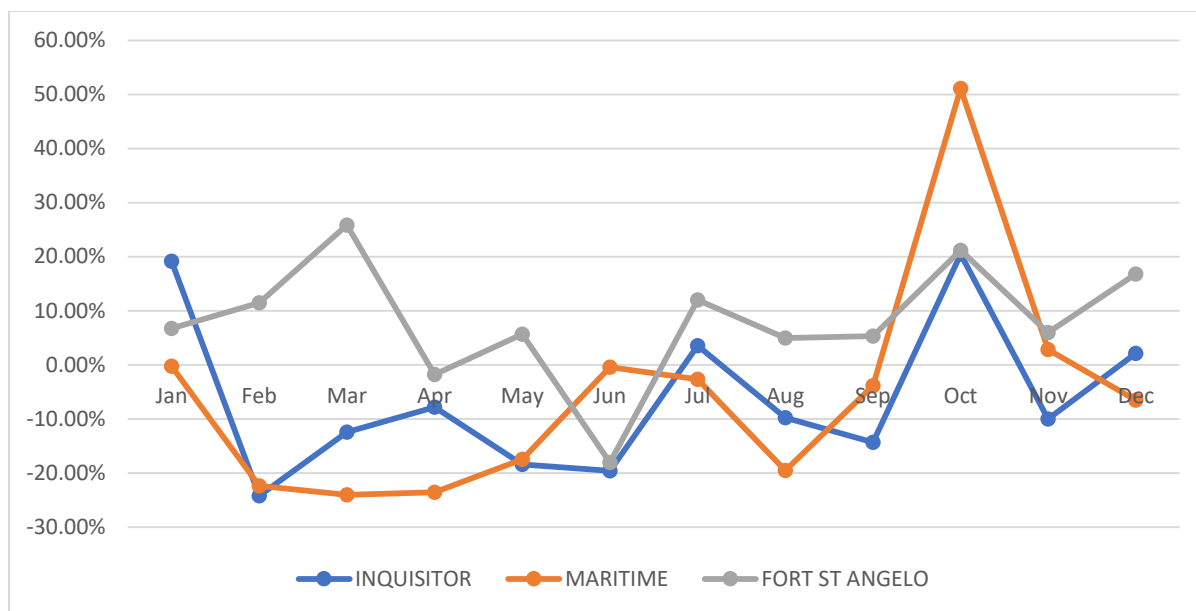
Vittoriosa Regional Statistics: Inquisitor's Palace, Maritime Museum and Fort St Angelo

Among all Heritage Malta sites in Vittoriosa, Fort St Angelo registered a positive surge in the number of paying admissions. Throughout the same period the Inquisitor's Palace and the Malta Maritime Museum had a contraction in the number of paying entrances. Globally, both sites sustained losses exceeding 3,500 visitors. Compared to 2018 Fort St Angelo lured an additional 4,000 visitors. Refer to Graph 16.



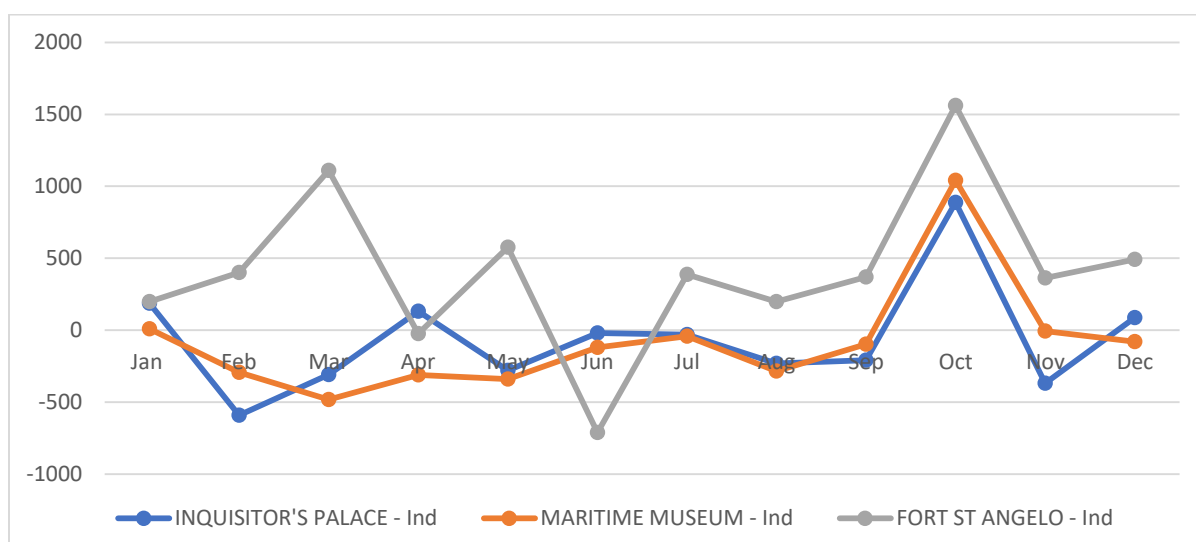
Graph 16: Paying Admissions 2019 vs 2018, Inquisitor's Palace, Maritime Museum and Fort St Angelo

The Vittoriosa regional performance started with a positive. Between February and May the Malta Maritime Museum and the Inquisitor's Palace fell into a negative performance. Over a spread of twelve months Fort St Angelo registered good results. Negative results were observed in June. Between March and September, Fort St Angelo was hosting the exhibition 'Behind Closed Doors' which attracted a substantial number of visitors. Refer to Graph 17.



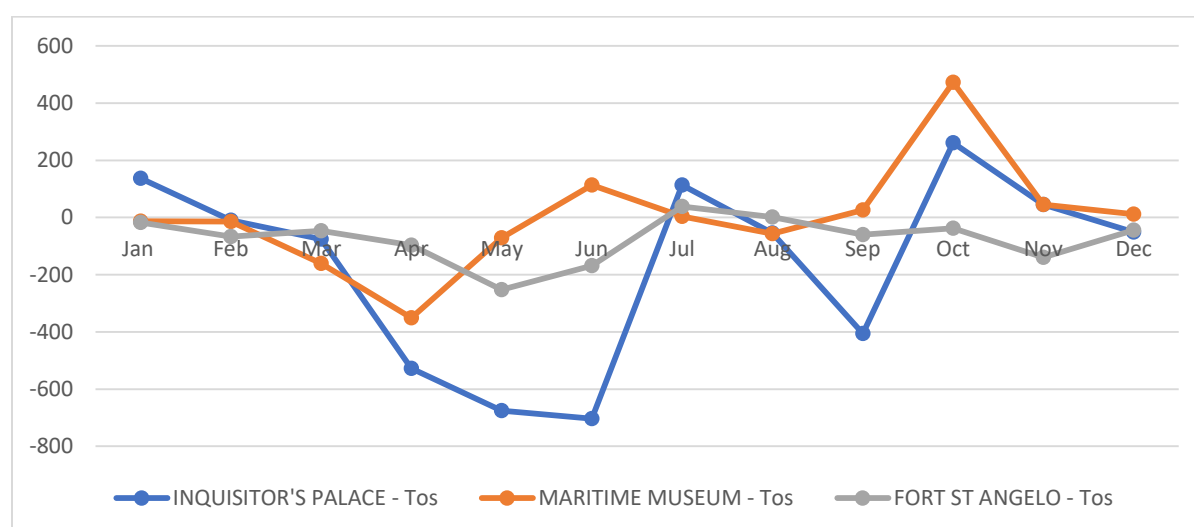
Graph 17: Vittoriosa Region - Percentage % in the number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

Individual visitors to Fort St Angelo were on the increase with the exception of June. A parallel performance was noted at the Inquisitor's Palace and the Malta Maritime Museum. A sharp surge in paying admissions was noted in October across all Vittoriosa sites. This is mainly due to the Birgufest, which in 2019 was held normally while in 2018 it had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The Malta Maritime Museum slipped into negative territory during December. Meanwhile individual admissions at the Inquisitor's Palace and Fort St Angelo ended in positive territory. Refer to Graph 18.



Graph 18: Vittoriosa Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

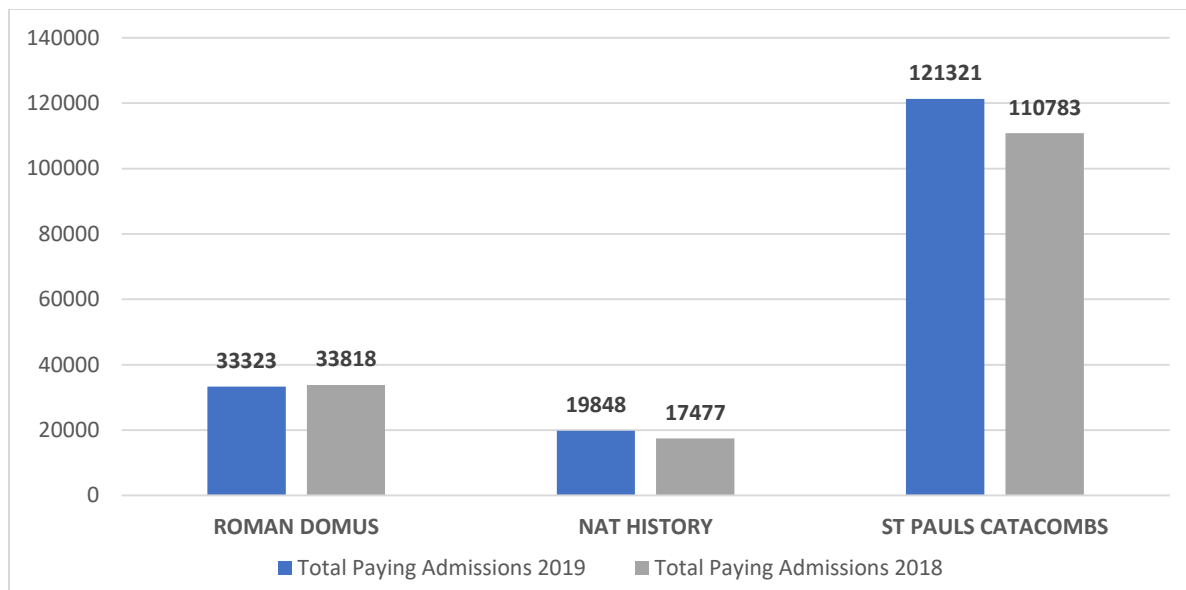
In 2019 group entries had a divergent pattern. Between March and June the Inquisitor's Palace sustained losses in the number of tour operators which reached a record low in June. It suffered another substantial drop during September. The Malta Maritime Museum registered minimal losses, the worst one in April. Fort St Angelo commenced the year with three sequential drops in group entries which were later followed by a minor increase in July and August. Minimal losses in group walk-ins were noted during July and September. Both the Inquisitor's Palace and the Malta Maritime museum saw a surge in group entries in October. Between September and December Fort St Angelo sustained four consecutive contractions in the number of tour operator admissions. Refer to Graph 19.



Graph 19: Vittoriosa Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of group entries 2019 vs 2018

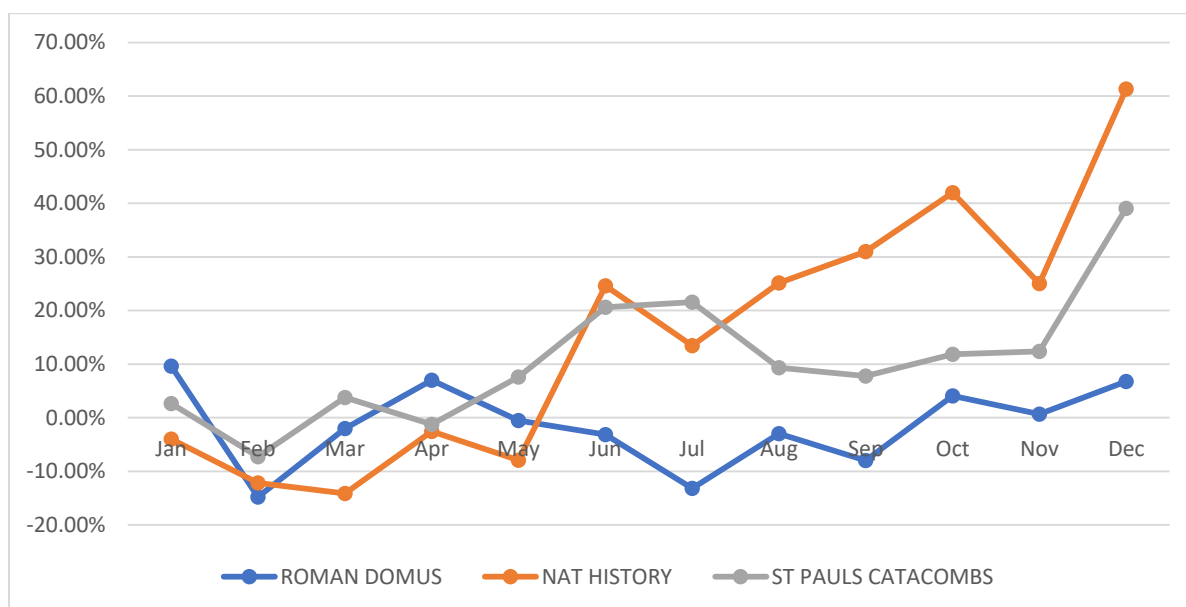
Rabat/Mdina Regional Statistics – St Paul's Catacombs, National Museum of Natural History, and the Domus Romana

St Paul's Catacombs and the National Museum of Natural History logged positive results, while the Roman Domus suffered a minor decrease. The catacombs recorded the most notable increase exceeding 10,000 visitors. Compared to previous years, the National Museum of Natural History lured over 2,300 visitors. Refer to Graph 20.



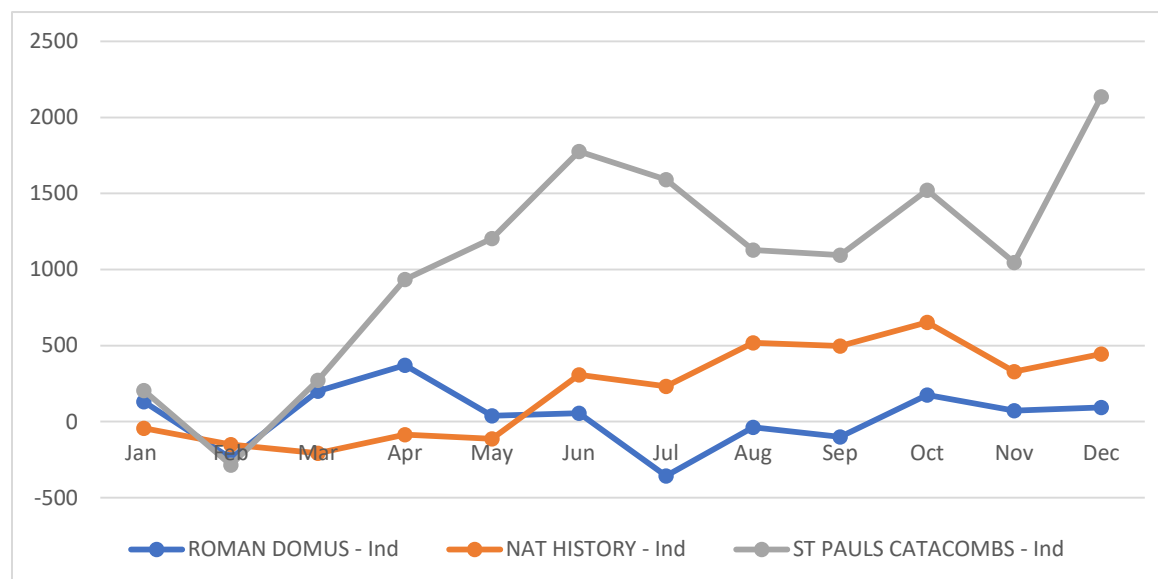
Graph 20: Paying admissions 2019 vs 2018, Roman Domus, National Museum of Natural History and St Paul's Catacombs

On a monthly basis St Paul's Catacombs registered positive monthly results with the exception of February. The National Museum of Natural History commenced the first quarter in negative territory. However from June onwards it emerged stronger, reaching a record increase in December. On the other hand the Roman Domus remained mostly in negative territory. It increased the number of admissions during April, October and December. Refer to Graph 21.



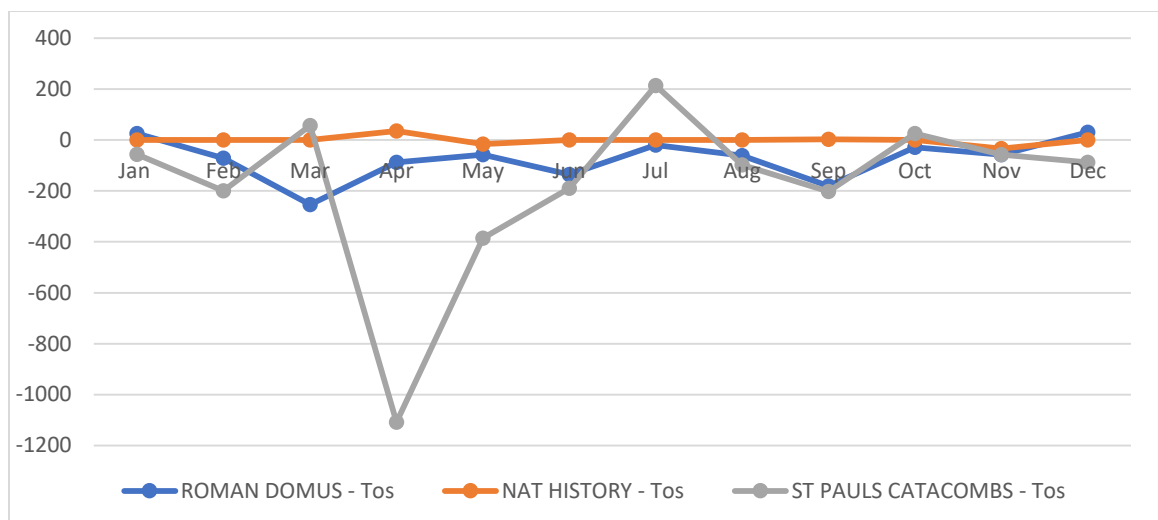
Graph 21: Rabat Region - Percentage % in the number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

In terms of individual visitors, St Paul's Catacombs performed very well. June and December recorded the highest peaks. During the first five months the National Museum of Natural History saw a decrease, however in subsequent months numbers have been constantly on the increase. Between February and June the Roman Domus logged positive results. In the last quarter it also increased the number of individual entries. Refer to Graph 22.



Graph 22: Rabat Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

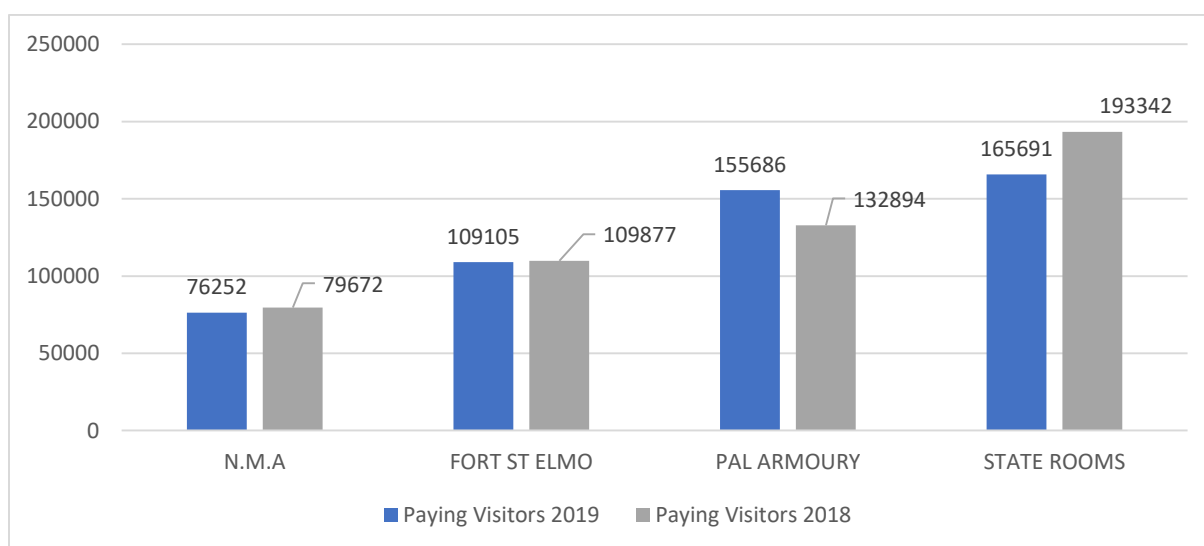
Unlike individual visitors, entries arising from tour operators remained in the negative. St Paul's Catacombs suffered two major reductions in April and May but recorded a positive increase in July. Throughout 2019 groups visiting the Roman Domus decreased with the only exception in December, when a trivial increase was registered. The number of tour operators visiting the National Museum of Natural History remains insignificant for analysis since the number of tour operators is comparatively low. Refer to Graph 23.



Graph 23: Rabat Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of group entries 2019 vs 2018

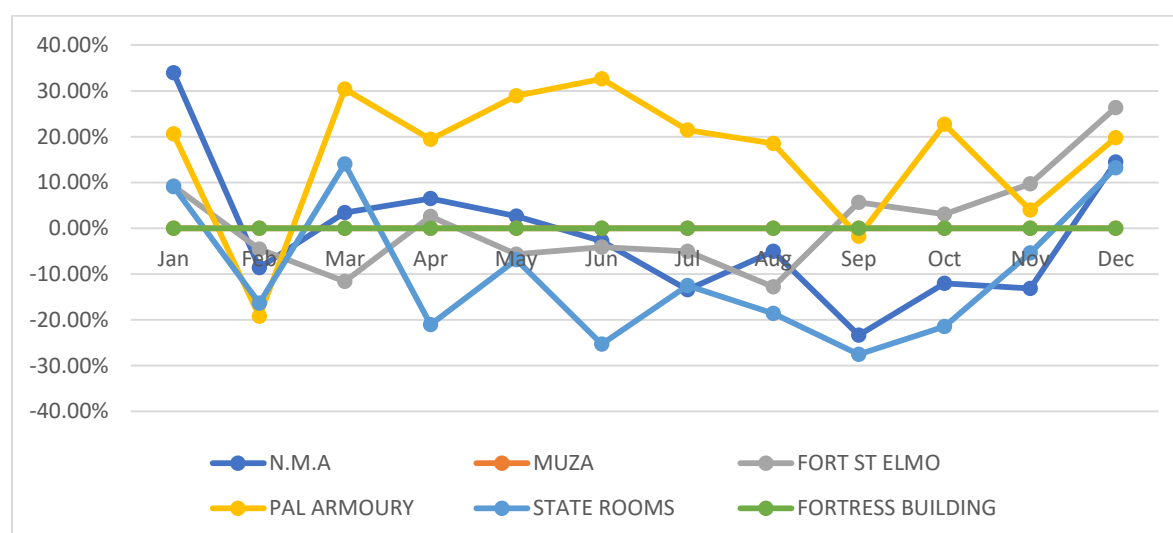
Valletta Regional Statistics: National Museum of Archaeology, MUŻA, Fort St Elmo, Palace Armoury, Palace State Rooms & Fortress Builders

The National Museum of Archaeology and the Palace Armoury recorded positive results. Fort St Elmo almost achieved the same figures of 2018. The Palace State Rooms recorded a significant loss in paying admissions since they were not always accessible due to current works. Since MUZA opened in December 2018, comparisons cannot be done. The pricing regime for the Fortress Builders came into effect in August. Hence comparisons cannot be done for this site either. Refer to Graph 24.



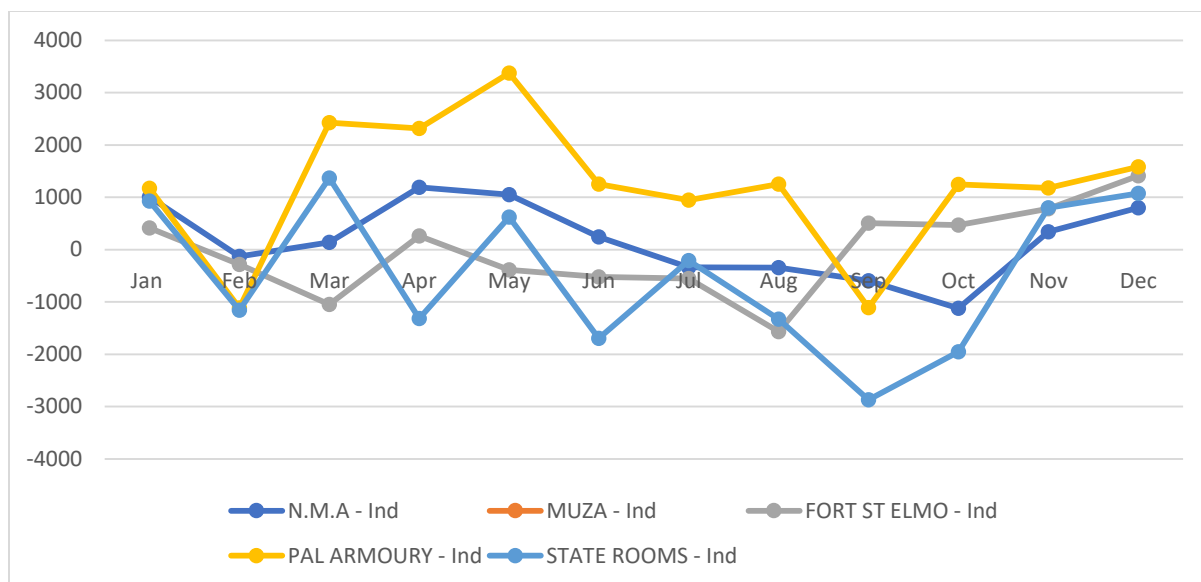
Graph 24: Paying admissions 2019 vs 2018, National Museum of Archaeology, Fort St Elmo, Palace Armoury and Palace State Rooms

Regional statistics in Valletta exhibited an unconventional pattern. In January all sites started the year in positive territory. Paying admissions at the Palace Armoury took a positive leap between March and September. Meanwhile, the Palace State Rooms dipped into a negative from June to November. For the first eight months Fort St Elmo registered a negative performance but losses were partially recovered in the last quarter. In the first four months with the exception of February, the National Museum of Archaeology lured additional visitors, however between June and November it slipped into negative territory. Refer to Graph 25.



Graph 25: Valletta Region - Percentage in the number of paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

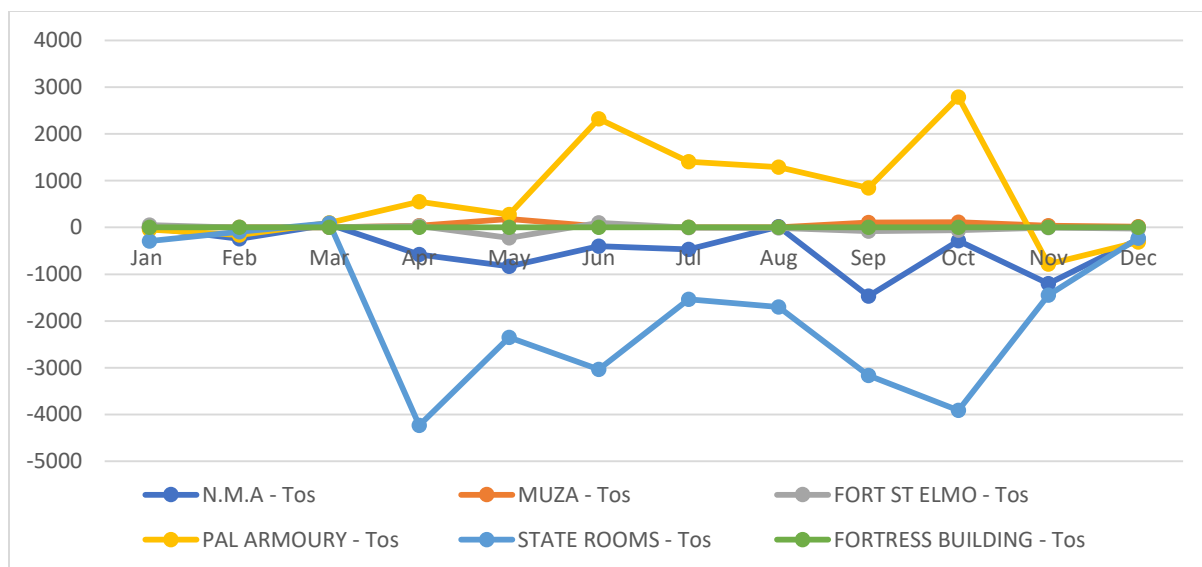
Individual visitors at the Palace Armoury were constantly on the increase, with the exception of February and September. Visitors have mainly shifted to the Palace Armoury since the Palace State Rooms were not always accessible. From March to June the National Museum of Archaeology lured additional visitors. During August, September and October it saw a decrease in individual visitors, while in the last two months it lured back additional individual entries. During the first eight months the number of individual walk-ins at Fort St Elmo decreased. A surge in the number of visitors was recorded from September onwards. Refer to Graph 26.



Graph 26: Valletta Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of Individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

It is evident that a large portion of group walk-ins shifted to the Armoury. Between March and October the Palace Armoury recorded a significant increase in the tour operator walk-ins. Two record peaks were noted in June, an increase of over two thousand entrances. Another record increase of nearly three thousand entrances was noted in October. Simultaneously, the National Museum of Archaeology recorded an overall decrease in tour operator admissions. September and November suffered an average monthly decrease of 1,000 entries. In terms of tour operator walk-ins, Fort St Elmo experienced minimal fluctuations since the majority of visitors to the site are individuals.

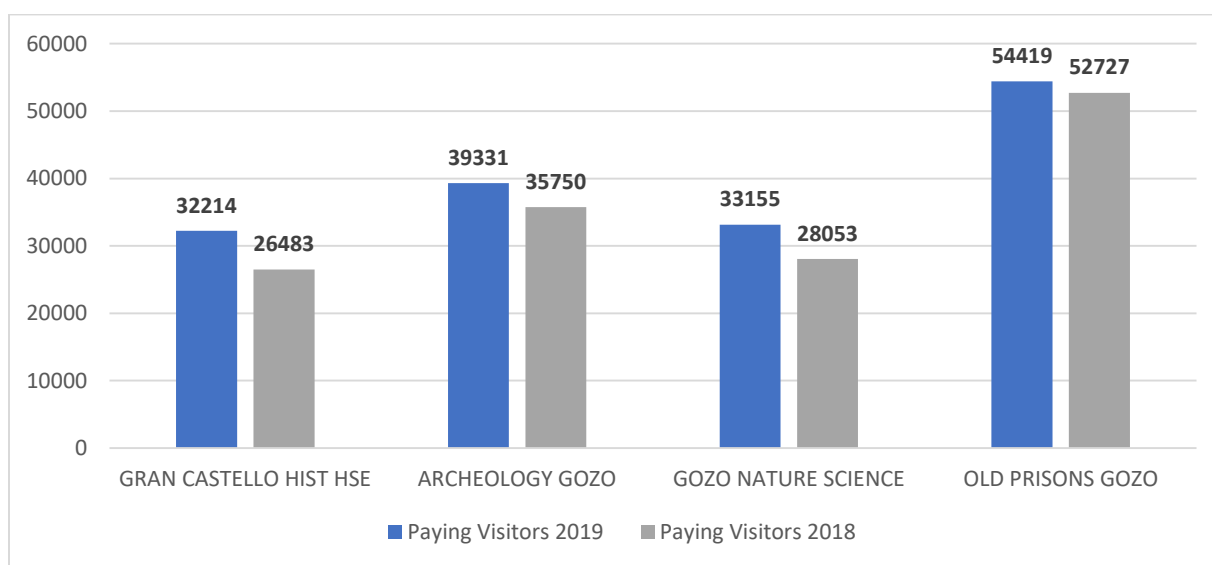
With reference to MUŻA and Fortress Builders, comparison cannot be done since MUŻA re opened to the general public on 15 December 2018, and the Fortress Builders price regime came into effect in August 2019. Refer to Graph 27.



Graph 27: Valletta Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of group visitors 2019 vs 2018

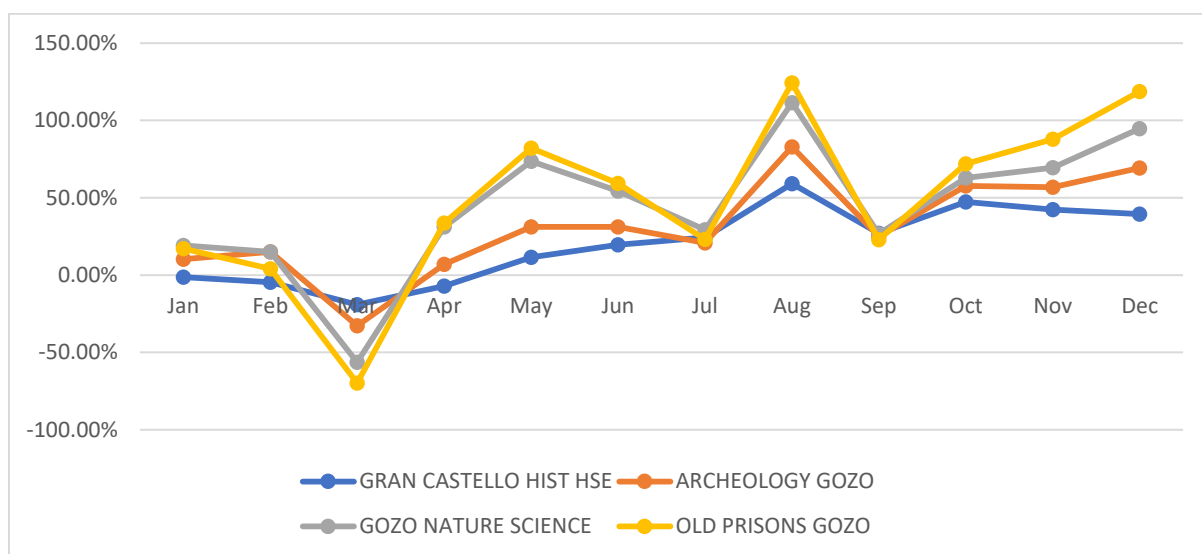
Citadel Region: Gozo Museum of Archaeology; Gozo Nature Museum, Gran Castello Historic House and Gozo Old Prisons

All museums in the Citadel had a positive surge in the number of admissions. Compared to 2018 they have registered an 11% increase. Total paying entrances leaped from 143,000 to 159,000 visitors. Percentage-wise the Gran Castello Historic House experienced the fastest expansion of 21.64%, while the Gozo Old Prisons recorded the lowest increase of 3.21%. In terms of total paying visitors, the Old Prisons attracted the biggest number of visitors. Refer to Graph 28.



Graph 28: Paying Admission 2019 vs 2018, Gran Castello Historic House, Gozo Museum of Archaeology, Gozo Nature Museum & Gozo Old Prisons

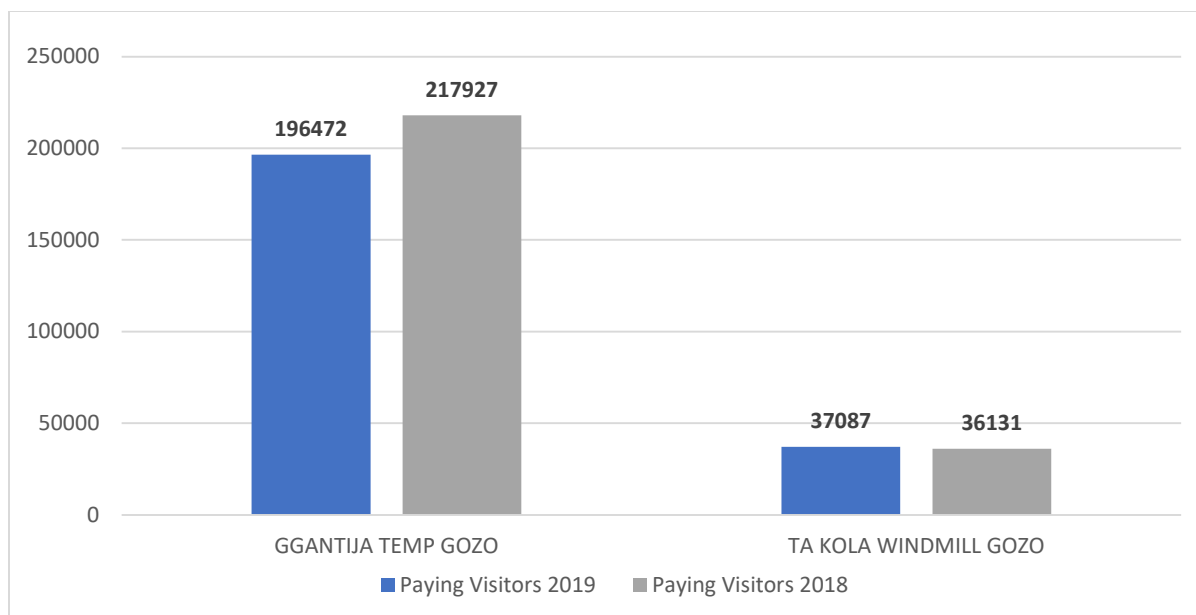
At first glance all Citadel museums have achieved a positive performance. Remarkably, March recorded a negative performance. It transpires that the highest peaks were recorded in May, August and December. A gradual and steady increase was noted in the last quarter. All entries in Graphs 28 & 29 are individual visitors with the exception of fourteen visitors who visited the Gozo Nature Museum in March. The installation of new signage and the introduction of the 3D Map may have impacted positively on admission numbers. Refer to Graph 29.



Graph 29: Citadel Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number paying admissions

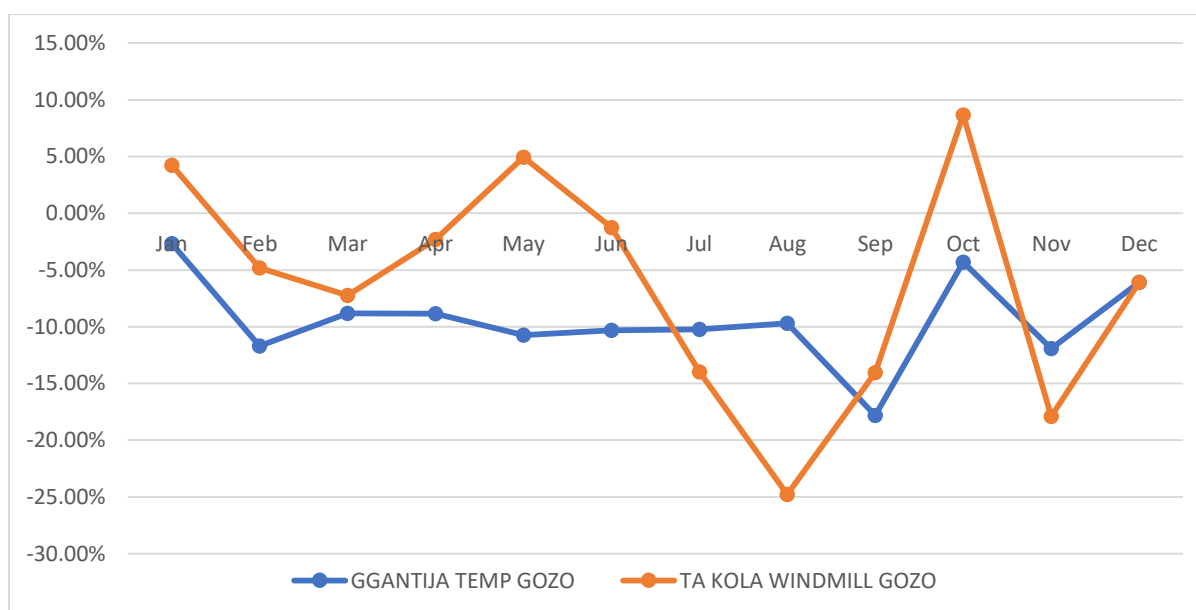
Xaghra Region: Ġgantija Temples and Ta' Kola Windmill

During the year Ġgantija Temples had a reduction in the number of paying visitors. Admissions plummeted from 217,000 to 196,000. During the same period Ta' Kola Windmill lured higher number of paying admissions compared to previous years. Refer to Graph 30.



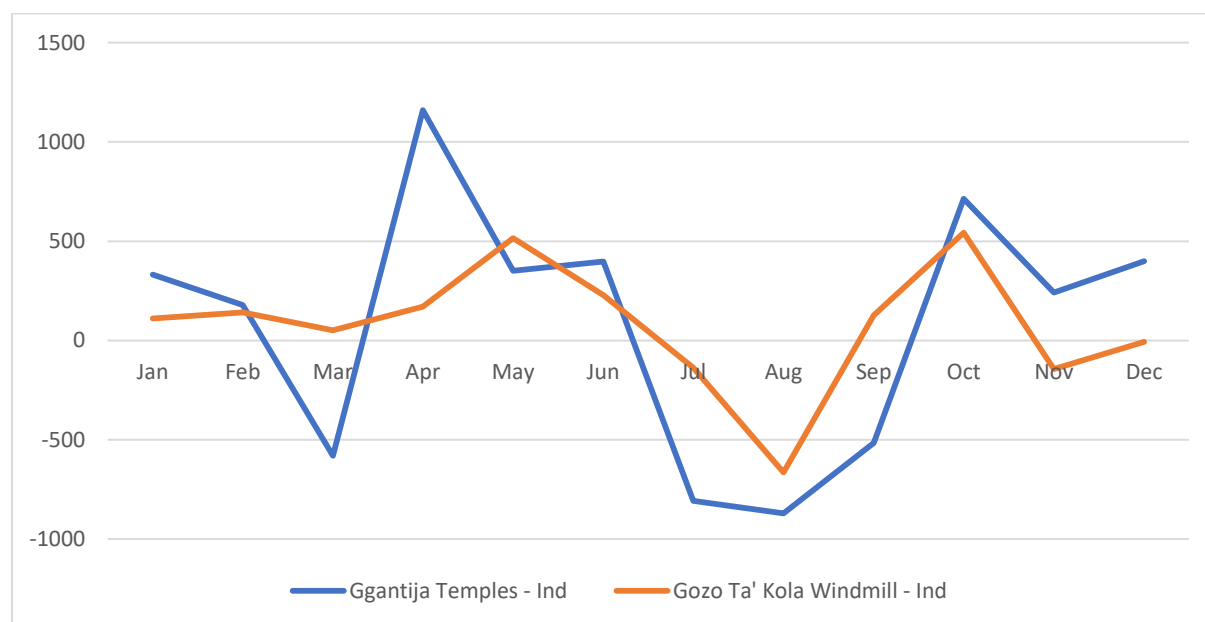
Graph 30: Paying Admission 2019 vs 2018, Ġgantija Temples and Ta' Kola Windmill

Throughout the year Ġgantija Temples was operating in a negative territory. Ġgantija is particularly heavily dependent on tour operator walk-ins. As referred above, tour operators experienced an unprecedented decline. Therefore, sites heavily dependent on tour operators such as Ġhar Dalam, Haġar Qim and Ġgantija, were more vulnerable to a reduction in the number of visitors. Refer to Graph 31.



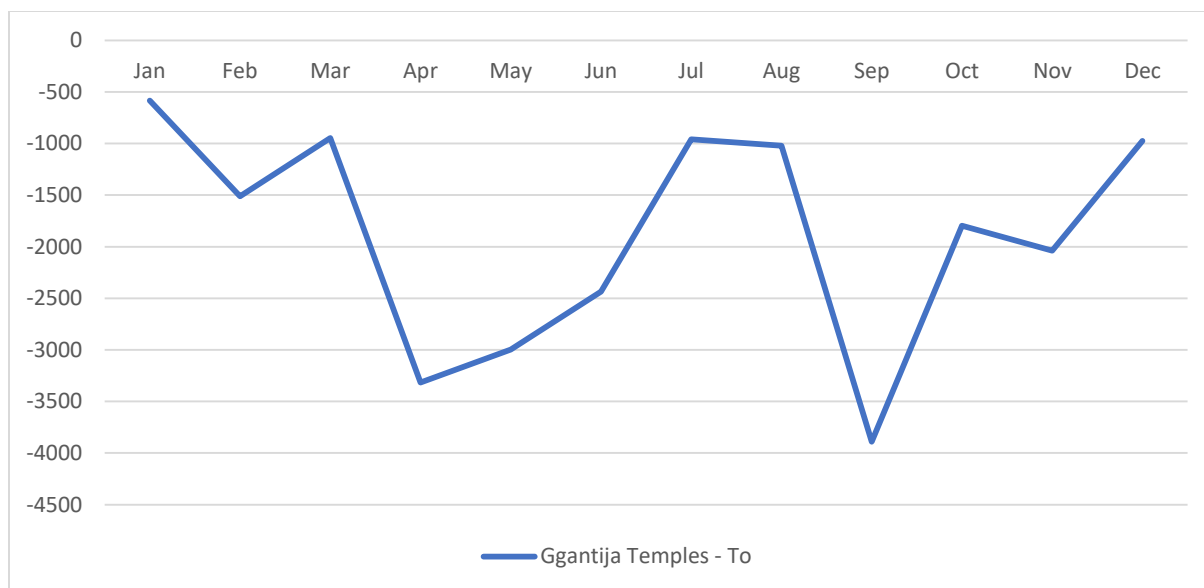
Graph 31: Xaghra Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number paying admissions 2019 vs 2018

In the first two months the number of individual entries visiting Ġgantija started positively. In March individual walk-ins decreased by 500 visitors. Losses were completely recovered in April and May. In quarter three admissions from non-group entries suffered an average monthly decrease of 750 visitors. In the last quarter Ġgantija recorded a positive increase. Throughout the year Ta' Kola Windmill lured substantial number of individual visitors except in August and November. Over 98% of the paying visitors to Ta' Kola Windmill were individual entries. Refer to Graph 32.



Graph 32: Xaghra Region – Increase or decrease +/- in the number of Individual visitors 2019 vs 2018

During the year Ġgantija Temples suffered a great reduction in the number of group entries. Between April and June Ġgantija recorded an average monthly decrease of 2,900 visitors. Between July and August losses remained almost constant. Another major decrease was registered in September. Nearly 4,000 visitors were lost. In the last quarter Ġgantija remained in the negative but losses were in the region of -2000 to -1000 visitors. Refer to Graph 33.

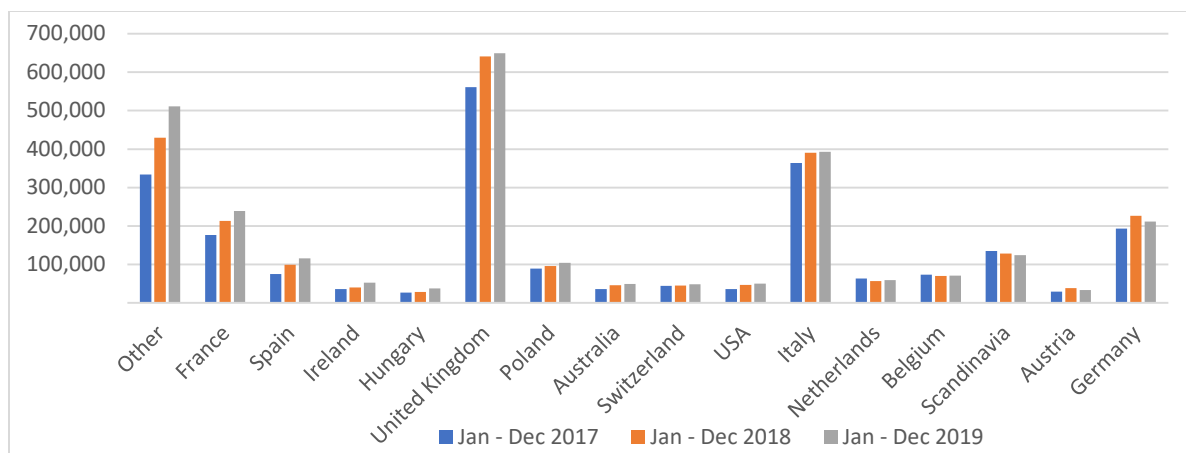


Graph 33: Xaghra Region - Increase or decrease +/- in the number of group visitors 2019 vs 2018

Inbound Tourism Activity by Nationalities

Inbound tourism activity on a national level

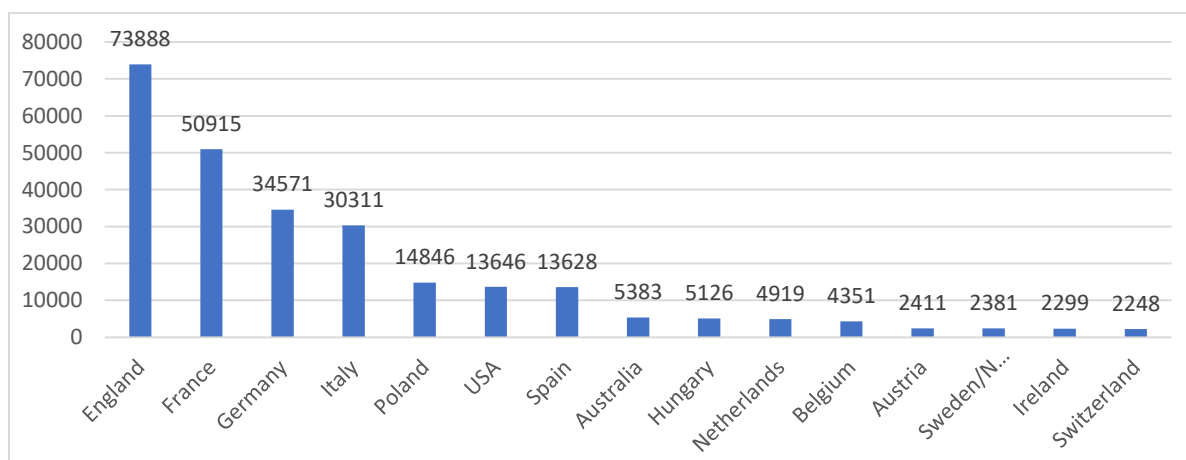
Nationality statistics provided by the National Statistics Office clearly show that the French, Spanish and Irish markets recorded significant increase over the previous year. In 2019, the Hungarian, the British and the Polish markets endured growth of moderate scale. In the meantime the Australian, Swiss, US, Italian, and Dutch markets registered a mild increase. The Italian and the UK markets remained the most statistically significant markets for Malta. Both saw an increase of 1% over the previous year. During the same period under review the Scandinavian, the Austrian and German markets endured significant decrease compared to last year. The German market amassed the biggest loss accumulating to -7%, which is equivalent to a loss of 15,000 tourists. Refer to Graph 34.



Graph 34: Inbound Tourism split by nationality Jan – Dec 2019/18/17 (Source: NSO)

Inbound tourism activity on a micro level

On a micro level Heritage Malta recorded similar results. Heritage Malta's main markets remained the traditional ones, namely English, French, Italian and German. The main emerging markets were Poland, USA, Spain and Australia. Refer to Graph 35.



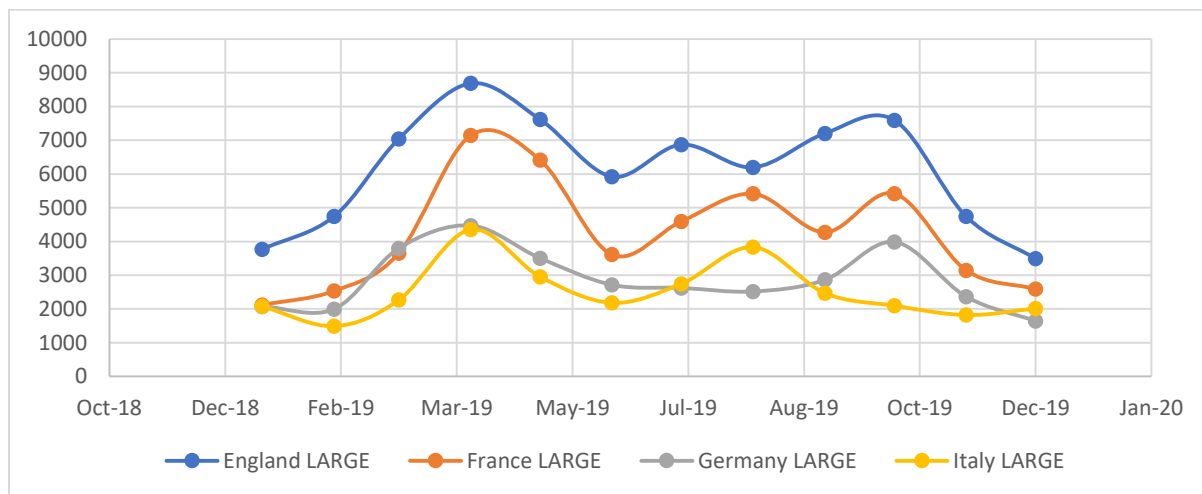
Graph 35: Heritage Malta nationality statistics based on the sale of paid tickets, excluding tickets issued from tour operators

Monthly Nationality Statistics

For the first time ever Heritage Malta nationality statistics have been studied in further detail. Monthly nationality statistics have been categorized into six major groups: LARGE; MEDIUM/

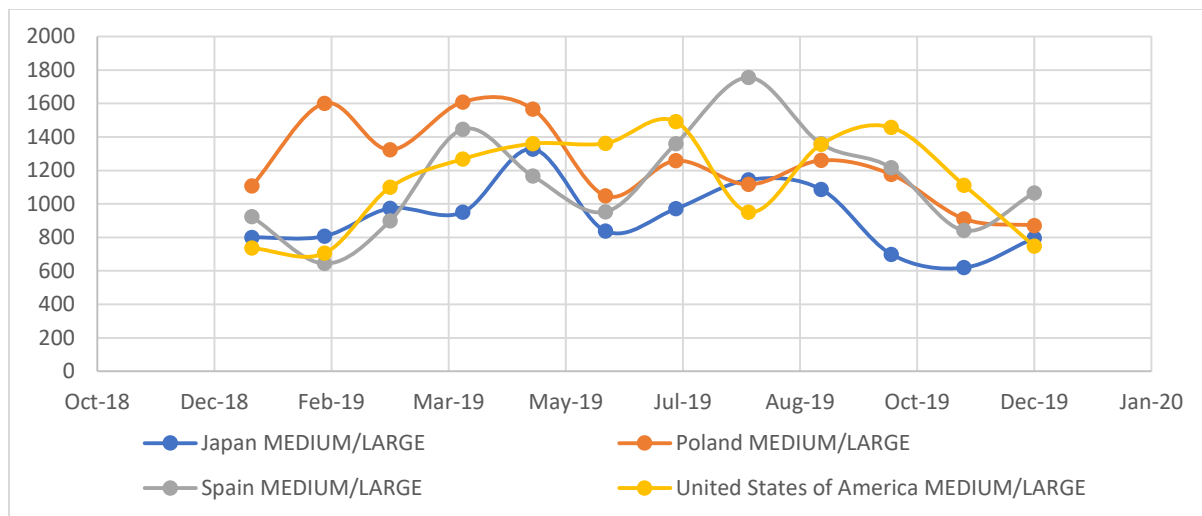
LARGE; MEDIUM; SMALL/MEDIUM; SMALL; SMALLEST. The following behaviour was noted over a twelve month period.

Throughout the year the English market remained the largest market. Peaks of English nationals were registered in March and September. The French market also followed a similar pattern. Numerically, the German and Italian markets remained on the same levels. Considering that on a national level the Italian market is the second strongest it should have scored second place. Instead, on a micro level the Italian market placed in fourth place. Refer to Graph 36.



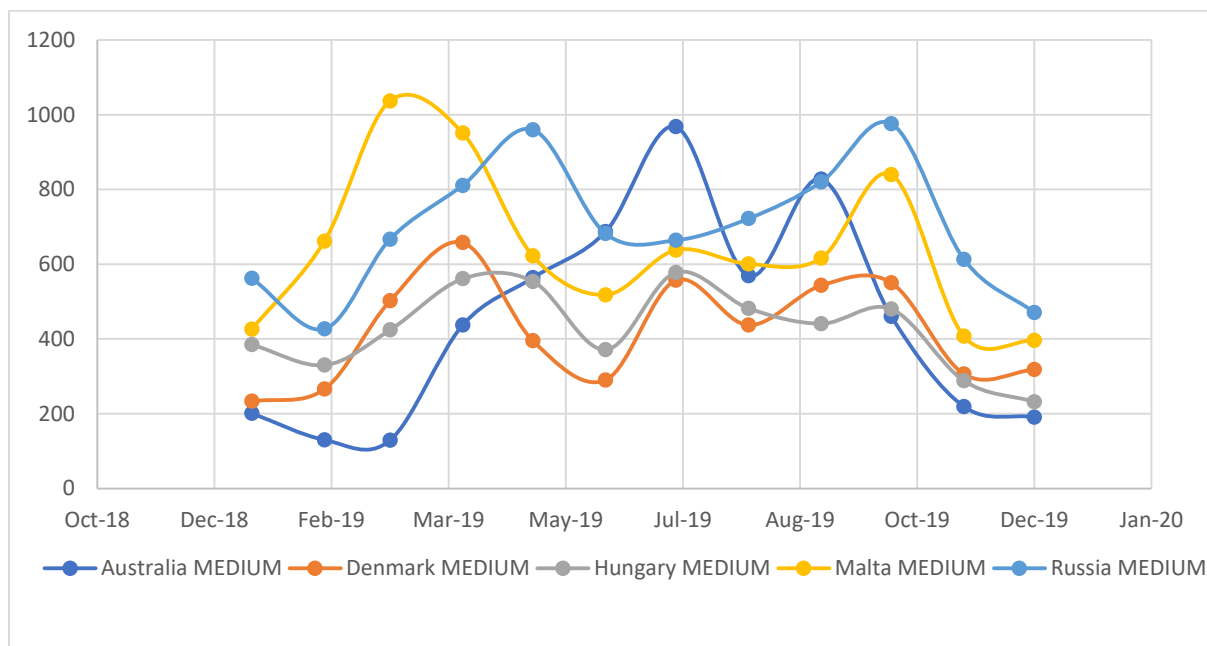
Graph 36: LARGE group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museums in 2019

The second group of nationalities refers to a group of nationalities from emerging markets. With the introduction of direct flights to Malta and vice versa, such markets have seen a soaring trend in the last decade. Contrary to the first set of nationalities, this group followed an unconventional pattern. It transpires that the Polish market characterised the first four months of the year. Between May and July the Spanish market has taken a positive leap reaching a high time peak in August. Refer to Graph 37.



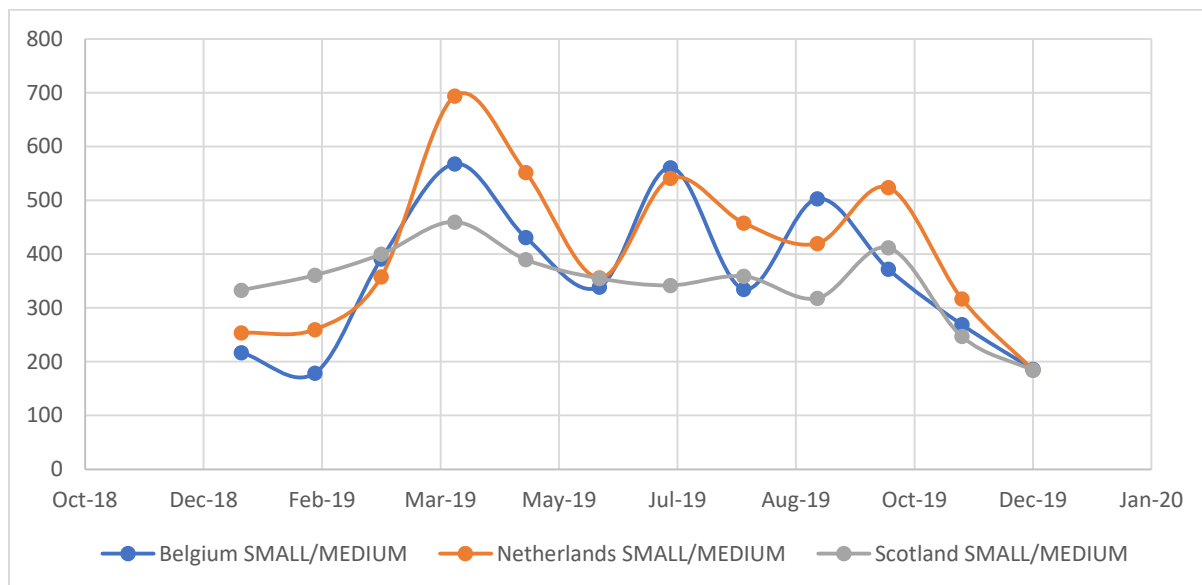
Graph 37: MEDIUM/LARGE group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museums in 2019

The third group of nationalities are the medium sized ones, mainly dominated by the Russian and the local market. In the first quarter the Australian market commenced in the lowest scales. However, it quickly recovered and reached saturation point in July. The patterns of the Danish and the Hungarian market scored the lowest among all nationalities in this group. Throughout the year they have also exhibited similar trends to each other. Refer to Graph 38.



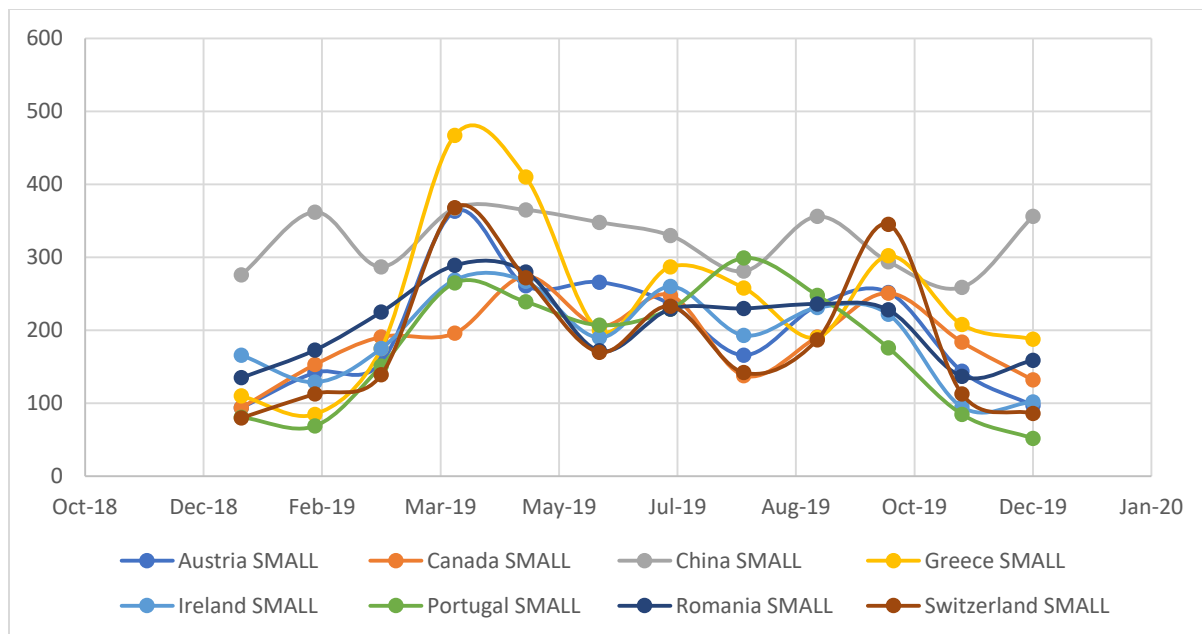
Graph 38: MEDIUM group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museums in 2019

A group of a small/medium sized nationalities is mainly composed of three main nationalities. Over a period of twelve months they have demonstrated a similar behavioural pattern, especially Belgium and the Netherlands. All three nationalities have peaked in April. Belgium and the Netherlands have experienced a secondary surge in July. Throughout the year the number of Scottish nationalities remained relatively stable expect for December. All three nationalities have converged to the same levels during November and December. Refer to Graph 39.



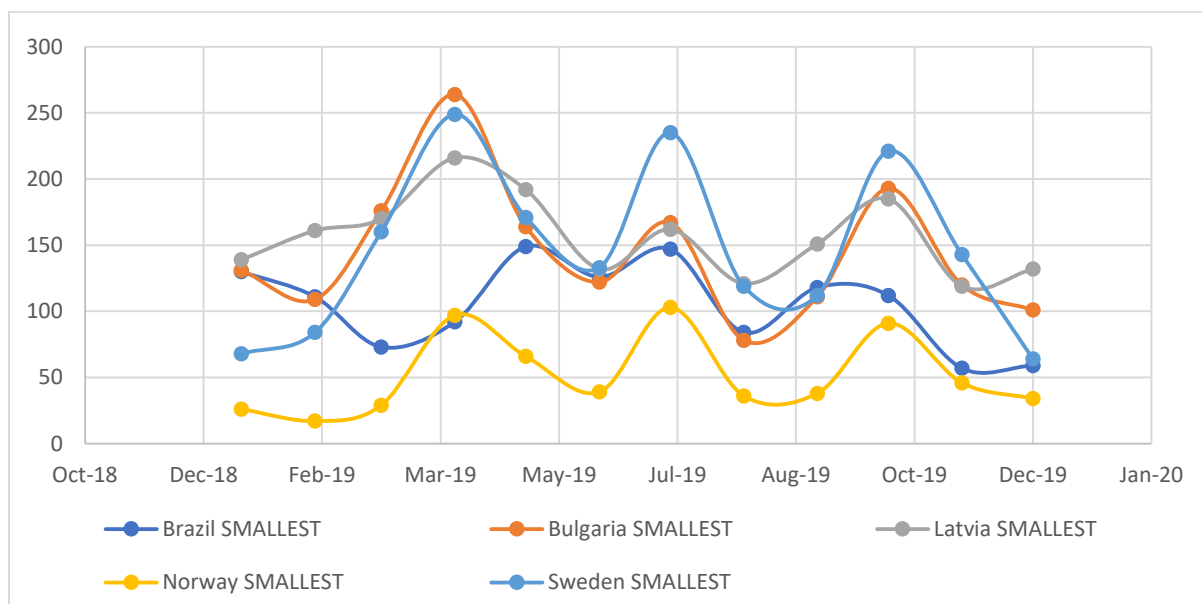
Graph 39: SMALL/MEDIUM group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museums

Another set of nationalities are mainly considered as the smaller ones. This group is dominated by the Greek nationals that reached a record high between April and May. Unlike the European markets, the Chinese market have shown a different behaviour. The Swiss market emerged stronger during April and October. The Portuguese nationals show a contrasting pattern. The highest levels were reached in August. However during the last four months the Portuguese markets have plummeted, reaching a low time peak in December. Refer to Graph 40.



Graph 40: SMALLER group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museums

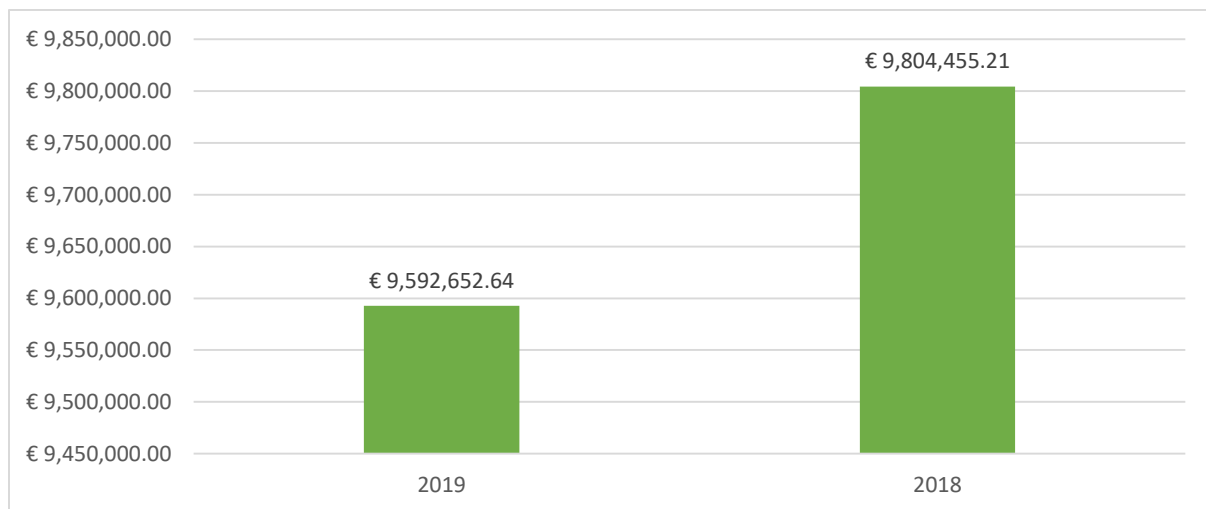
The smallest group of nationalities is composed on five nationalities. The Swedish market is the strongest while the Norwegian market is the smallest market among all existing markets. During last year, the Bulgarian, Swedish, Latvian and Norwegian markets have shown a bigger degree of fluctuations. It also transpires that some of the nationalities in this group surged in April, July and October. Refer to Graph 41.



Graph 41: SMALLEST group of nationalities that visited Heritage Malta sites/museum

Heritage Malta Revenue⁴

As at 31 December, Heritage Malta's financial performance shows that revenue decreased from €9.8 million in 2018 to €9.59 million in 2019. Revenue derived through tickets sales went down by -3.18% while revenue from the sale of publications increased by 7.25%. During the same period under review, merchandise and food items experienced an increase of 7.78% and 14.77% respectively. Refer to Graph 42.

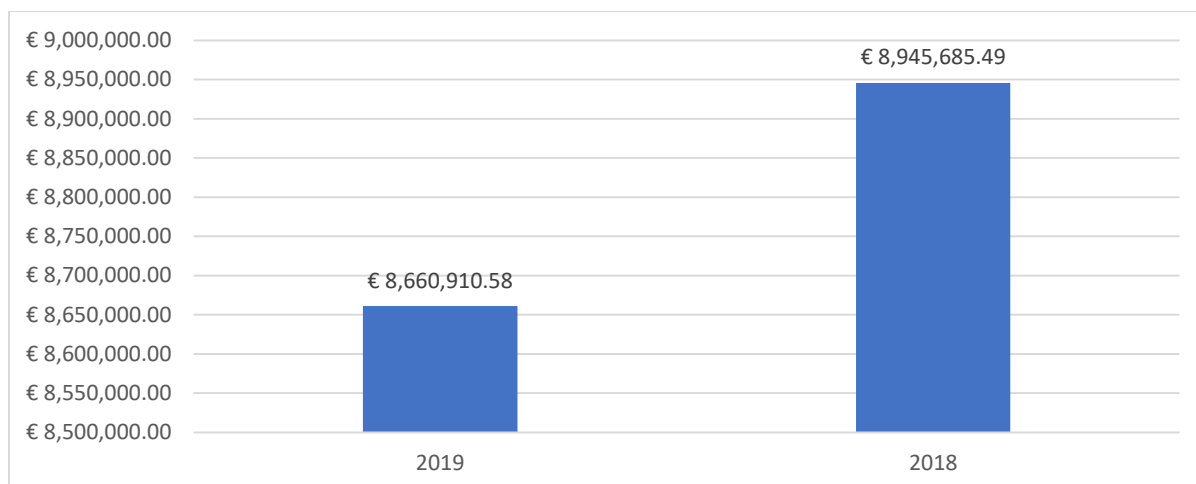


Graph 42: Total revenue January – December 2019/2018

Revenue Generated – Entrance Fees

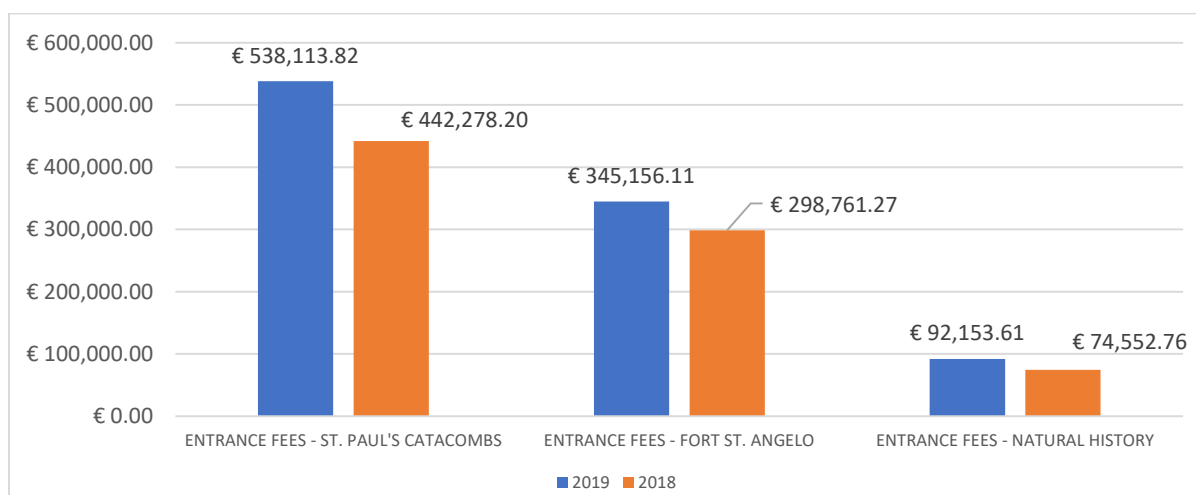
Between January and December revenue arising from ticket sales contracted from €8.94 million in 2018 to €8.66 million in 2019. Entrance fees decreased by €294,000 as a direct result of a decrease in the number of paying admissions, particularly from tour operators. Refer to Graph 43.

⁴ Revenue includes entrance fees, publications, merchandise & food.



Graph 43: Revenue generated from entrance fees Jan – December 2019/2018

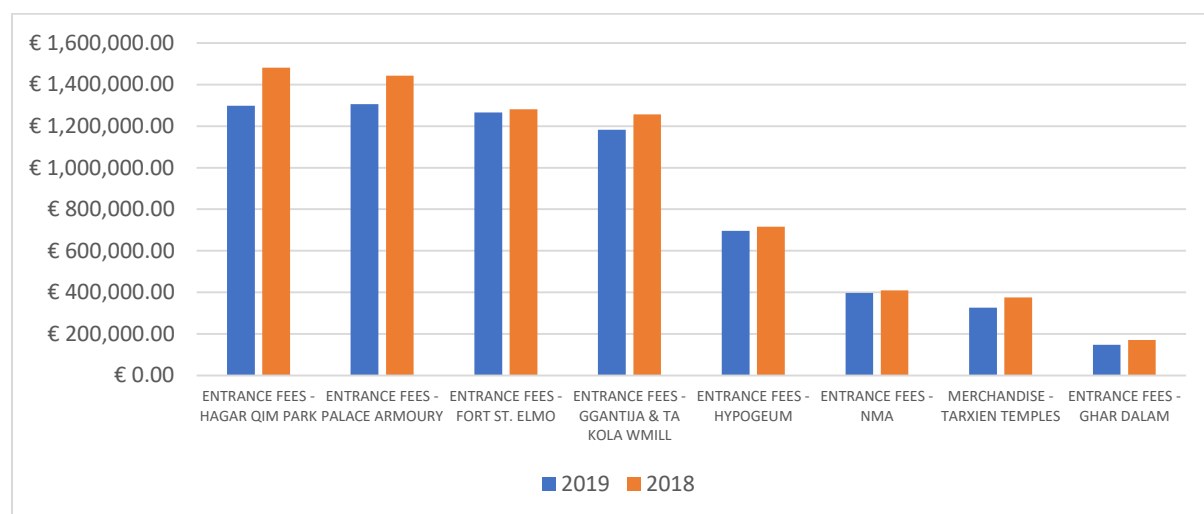
The National Museum of Natural History recorded a significant increase of 23.61% in entrance fees. Simultaneously, St Paul's Catacombs sustained a robust growth of 21.67%. Ticket sales from Fort St Angelo grew at a rate of 15.53%. On 1 August an admission fee of €2 was introduced at the Fortress Interpretation Centre. During the first two months this generated an income of €3,077.⁵ Entrance fees arising from Head Office soared by 20.63%. Refer to Graph 44.



Graph 44: Entrance fees January - December 2019/2018 for St Paul's Catacombs, Fort St Angelo and the National Museum of Natural History

⁵ Prior to 1 August 2019 entrance to the Fortress Interpretation Centre was free of charge.

Throughout the same period entrance fees generated from Haġar Qim dwindled from €1,481,689 in 2018 to €1,298,845.10 in 2019 a drop of -12.34%. The Grand Master's Palace saw a decrease in revenue of 9.52% due to reasons specified above. Ġgantija also registered a reduction in the sales of tickets equivalent to €74,598. Meanwhile, Tarxien Temples, Għar Dalam, the Hypogeum, Fort St Elmo and the National Museum of Archaeology saw a sharp decline in entrance fees amounting to €48,417, €22,420, €19,567, €16,155 and €11,028 respectively. Refer to Graph 45.



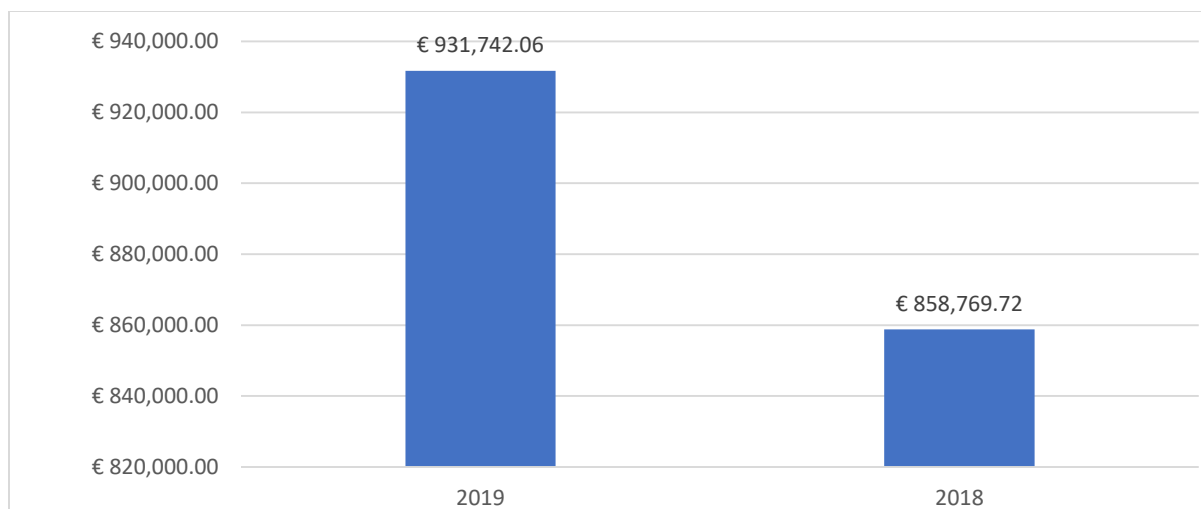
Graph 45: Entrance fees January - December 2019/2018 for Haġar Qim, Grand Master's Palace, Fort St Elmo, Ġgantija Temples, Hypogeum, Tarxien Temples, the National Museum of Archaeology & Għar Dalam

The following sites recorded a modest reduction from the sale of tickets namely, the Inquisitor's Palace (-€3,508), the Gozo Old Prisons (-€2,924), Citadel Visitor Centre (-€2,564), Gozo Museum of Archaeology (-€2,022) and the Malta Maritime Museum (-€1,098).

Revenue Generated – Gift Shops⁶

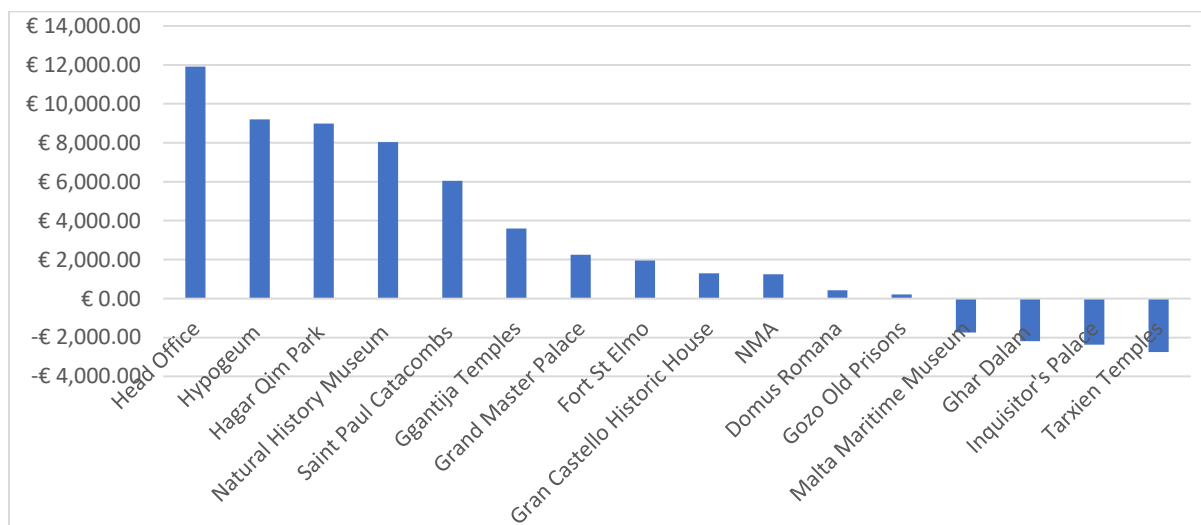
As opposed to entrance fees, sales from gift shops soared by 8.48% between January and December 2019/2018. In monetary terms gift shop sales grew from €858,769 to €931,742 an increase of €72,972 over the same period last year. Sales from Head Office increased significantly compared to the previous year. Haġar Qim, Hypogeum, and the National Museum of Natural History saw an expansion in gift shop sales exceeding €6,000 individually. Annually, St Paul's Catacombs expanded its gift shop sales by €6,000. Refer to Graph 46 & Graph 47.

⁶ Gift Shop sales including: publications, merchandise & food



Graph 46: Revenue (€) generated from gift shop sales January and December 2019/2018

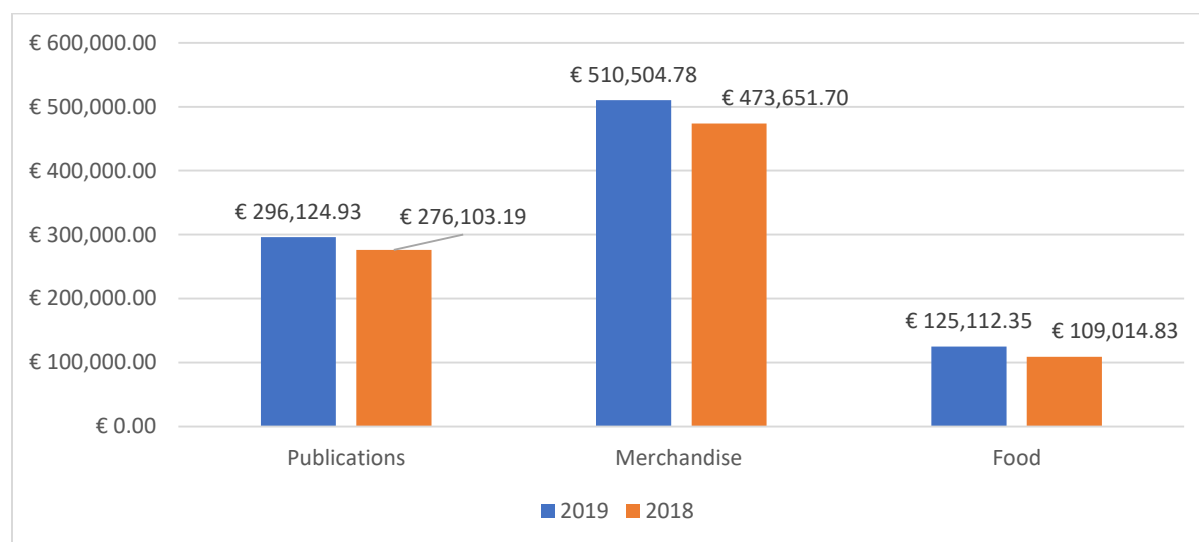
Gift shop turnover derived from Ġgantija, the Grand Master's Palace, Fort St Elmo, Gran Castello Historic House and the National Museum of Archaeology expanded in the region of €1,000-€4,000. Domus Romana and the Gozo Old Prisons had an increase in gift shop sales of less than €500. Simultaneously, Tarxien Temples, the Inquisitor's Palace and Għar Dalam saw the largest decline in gift shop sales. The Malta Maritime Museum also suffered a similar reduction. Refer to Graph 47.



Graph 47: Increase/decrease in gift shop sales January–December 2019/2018

Revenue Generated – Categorized Gift Shop Sales

Globally, gift shop sales increased by 8.5%. Total gift shop sales soared from €858,769 in 2018 to €931,742 in 2019. Merchandise sales recorded the fastest increase, from €473,651 in 2018 to €510,504 in 2019. Compared to the same period last year, the food segment grew by 14.77%. Sales from publications increased from €276,103 in 2018 to €296,124 in 2019. Refer to Graph 48.

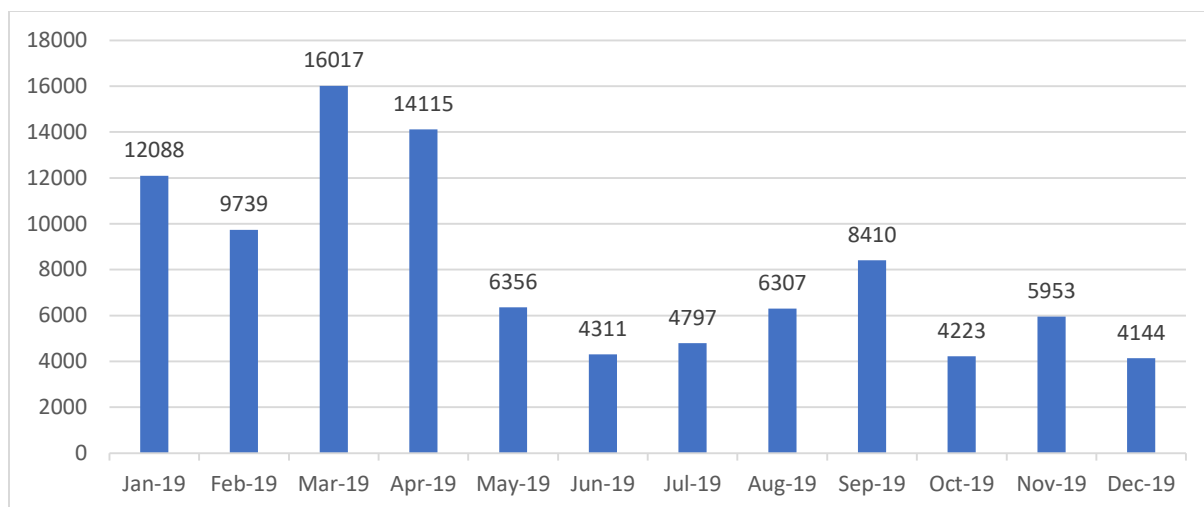


Graph 48: Categorized gift shop sales January – December 2019/2018

The Passport Schemes

The Student Passport Scheme

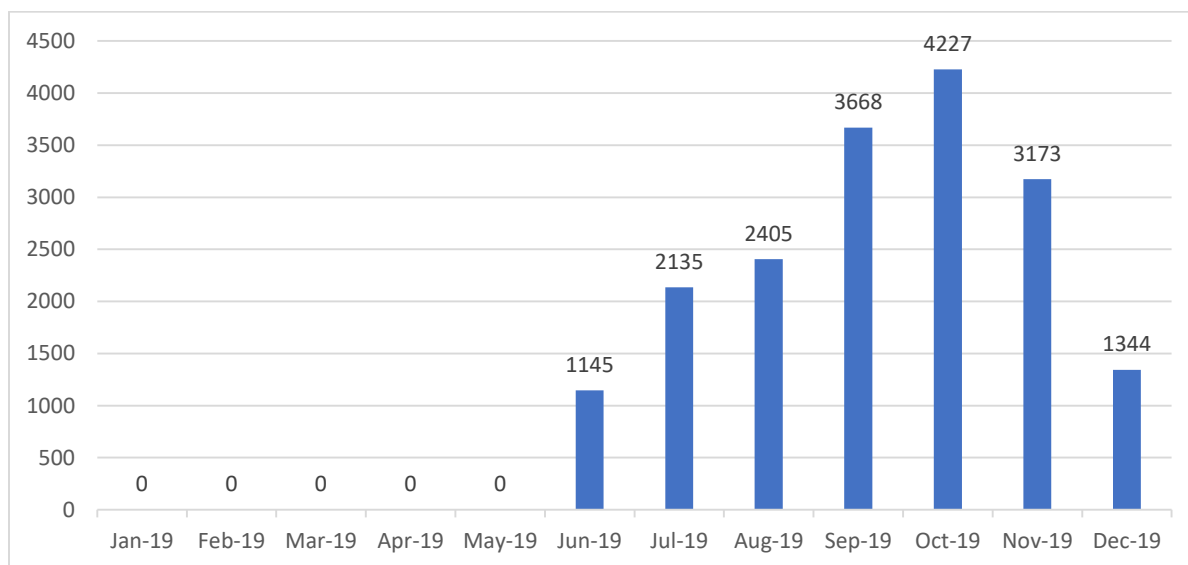
The student passport scheme was launched in late November 2018. During the first month since its launch a total 12,500 persons visited Heritage Malta sites/museums. From 1 January to 31 December the number of entries through the use of the student passport schemes reached 96,000 visitors. The highest peaks were recorded between March and April. Refer to Graph 49. The National Museum of Natural History, Għar Dalam, and Ġgantija Temples were the most popular sites among student passport holders.



Graph 49: Non-paying admissions by student passport holders January - December

The Senior Passport Scheme

In May a new passport scheme was launched for elderly people. In the first seven months since its implementation the number of non-paying admissions using the senior passport totalled 18,500. MUŽA was the most popular site. Ġgantija Temples lured 1,262 visitors, followed by the Palace Armoury (1,164), Fort St Angelo (1,108), the National Museum of Archaeology (1,005), and the State Rooms (1,004). Refer to Graph 50.



Graph 50: Senior passport non-paying admissions June – December

Annex 1

SOUTHERN AREA	Total paying visitors 2019	Total paying visitors 2018	% Change
GHAR DALAM	39462	47318	-16.60%
HAGAR QIM	161698	187083	-13.57%
MNAJDRA	111178	126760	-12.29%

POALA & TARXIEN AREA	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
HYPOGEUM	32582	33033	-1.37%
TARXIEN TEMPLES	69087	78298	-11.76%

VITTORIOSA AREA	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
INQUISITOR'S PALACE	38626	41310	-6.50%
MARITIME MUSEUM	21459	22453	-4.43%
FORT ST ANGELO	58351	54313	7.43%

RABAT AREA	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
ROMAN DOMUS	33323	33818	-1.46%
NATURAL HISTORY	19848	17477	13.57%
ST PAUL'S CATACOMBS	121321	110783	9.51%

VALLETTA AREA	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
N.M.A	76252	79672	-4.29%
MUZA	38581	630	-
FORT ST ELMO	109105	109877	-0.70%
PALACE ARMOURY	155686	132894	17.15%
STATE ROOMS	165691	193342	-14.30%
FORTRESS BUILDERS	1832	0	-

XAGHRA AREA	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
GGANTIJA TEMPLES	196472	217927	-9.85%
TA' KOLA WINDMILL GOZO	37087	36131	2.65%

CITADEL SITES	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2018	% Change
GRAN CASTELLO HISTORIC HOUSE	32214	26483	21.64%
GOZO ARCHAEOLOGY	39331	35750	10.02%
GOZO NATURE MUSEUM	33155	28053	18.19%
OLD PRISONS GOZO	54419	52727	3.21%

SMALL SITES	Total paying visitors Jan - Dec 2019	Total paying visitors 2018	% Change
BORG IN-NADUR	2811	2347	19.77%
TA' HAGRAT TEMPLE	3390	3969	-14.59%
SKORBA TEMPLES	3374	3784	-10.84%
TA' BISTRA CATACOMBS	1335	1699	-21.42%

APPENDIX I

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS HOSTED BY HM

27 January – 9 February: **Lost in Representation** – an interactive exhibition by international artist Menekşe Samanci focusing on European representation of migrants, in collaboration with Valletta 2018 Foundation and human rights NGO Kopin.

1 March: An exhibition of posters designed by *Istituto Europeo di Design* for the Malta Tourism Authority, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

15 – 19 March: **Scale model exhibition** – An exhibition of high quality models of aircraft, ships, military vehicles etc, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

14 – 24 April: **Undertones** – art exhibition on mental health in Malta, at the National Museum of Natural History.

15 – 28 April: **Living with Mental Illness - An Artistic Study** by Dr Alexi Sammut and Anthony Calleja, at the National Museum of Natural History.

30 April – 17 May: **Unity through food** – a video installation by Zafira Dag at MUŻA.

17 May – 1 June: **Ceramics - An exhibition by six Maltese Ceramists** (Sina Farrugia, Charles Sammut and Mario Sammut, Antoine Paul Camilleri, Kenneth Grima and Joseph Agius), at the lower courtyard of the National Museum of Natural History.

18 May – 31 August: **Little Echoes** – An exhibition of paintings by artist Tommy Barr, inspired from Malta's prehistoric collection, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

EXHIBITIONS ORGANISED BY HM

5 October 2018 – 31 March: Medieval Malta Exhibition Series No. 1: **Core and Periphery: Mdina and Safi in the 9th and 10th centuries**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

11 – 17 February: **The Neolithic embracing couple display** on the occasion of St Valentine's Day at the National Museum of Archaeology.

22 March – 8 September: **Behind Closed Doors: Fort St Angelo and the Royal Navy 1906-1979**, at Fort St Angelo.

5 June – 31 August: ***Culhat al Belt: Sette Giugno 1919-2019*** on the occasion of the centenary of the *Sette Giugno*, at the Parliament Building, Valletta.

28 June – 28 September: Espresso Exhibition Series No. 7, **Ta' Ġawhar Tower – Gold, Bread and Fire**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

4 September – 31 December: Espresso Exhibition Series No. 8, **The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th century Malta**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21 September – 31 December: ***Culhat al Belt: Sette Giugno 1919-2019*** on the occasion of the centenary of the *Sette Giugno*, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

5 October: ***Dak li writna u dak li se nħallu warajna*** – exhibition at the Office of the Prime Minister, Auberge de Castile, on the occasion of Notte Bianca.

EXHIBITIONS IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

2 September 2018 – 31 August: **Exploring the Phoenician Shipwreck off Xlendi, Gozo** – an exhibition highlighting discoveries from this site, at the Gozo Area Office exhibition hall, the Citadel, Gozo, in collaboration with the University of Malta, the Ministry for Gozo, the Malta International Airport and the Honor Frost Foundation.

19-20 January: **The restored set of paintings of Juan Patricio Morlete Ruiz** – official inauguration of exhibition by H. E. the President and presentation by Joanna Hili Micallef, in collaboration with the Office of the President, at Verdala Palace.

7 April: **Safi in the 9th and 10th centuries**, at the Safi Local Council on the occasion of *Jum #al Safi*.

18 August – 12 January 2020: **The exhibition of one painting – The portrait of Catherine the Great with St George's Ribbon**, at the Ekaterininsky Hall, Grand Palace State Museum Tsaritsyno, Moscow, Russia.

15 November – 15 December: **Wiki Loves Monuments** – the world's largest photography competition capturing images of historic monuments, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

EXHIBITIONS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

19-20 January: **75th anniversary of the statue of St Sebastian**, organized by the Qormi Local Council at the St Sebastian Parish Church, Qormi.

30 January – 31 March: **Art + Feminism** exhibition at St James Cavalier, organised by *Fundazzjoni għall-Kreattività*.

1 – 17 February: **Via Pulchritudinis**, organized by the *Għaqda Mużikali Marija Bambina, Banda Vittorja*, Naxxar.

11 March: Business and Professional Women **Careers Day** at MFCC Ta' Qali.

13 April – 16 June: **Music in Malta – From Prehistory to Vinyl**; organised by *Fondazzjoni Patrimonju Malti* at the Mdina Cathedral Museum.

26 September – 23 October: **A nation of achievers**: An exhibition commemorating the 250th anniversary of the University of Malta, at the University Valletta Campus.

27 September – 29 March 2020: **Carthago, The immortal myth**, an exhibition on the city of Carthage, organised by the *Parco Archeologico del Colosseo* at the Coliseum, Rome.

1 October – 1 November: **The coinage of the Order of St John: Rhodes, Malta and Rome**, organised by the Central Bank of Malta, at the Central Bank of Malta.

9 – 13 October: ***Il-kult antik lejn il-Ġimgħa l-Kbira fil-Birgu***, by the *Kummissjoni Ġimgħa l-Kbira Birgu*, at the Oratory of the Crucifix, Vittoriosa.

26 October – 30 November: **The Human turned Divine - The art of the crucifix**, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Cathedral Museum, at the Mdina Cathedral Museum.

1 December – 31 January 2020: **Coming back home**, an exhibition to mark the 80th anniversary from the death of the great Russian architect Nikolai Krasnov, at the Alexander Solzhenitsyn House of Russia Abroad, Moscow, Russia.

LECTURES ORGANISED / HOSTED BY HM

16 January: **Archaeology, archaeogenetics and identity: genetic research within the Maltese context** – a lecture by Karl Hallett, organised by the Archaeological Society of Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology.

20 February: **Scratching below the surface: Excavating the Phoenician shipwreck off Gozo** – a lecture by Timmy Gambin, organised by the Archaeological Society of Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology.

27 February: **Faith and Death in the Revolution: New Insights into Malta's History** – a lecture by Liam Gauci, organised by the Malta Historical Society, at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

1 March: **A new age in the conservation of cultural heritage sites: Computer modelling of the Ħal Saflieni Hypogeum environment** – a lecture by Pierre Sandre Farrugia from the University of Malta at the Ħaġar Qim Visitor Centre.

6 March: **Strip – The urban regeneration debate** – A general debate with experts held by SACES at MUŻA.

13 March: **St George and al-Khidr: A Mediterranean saint for Christians and Muslims** – A lecture by Dr Erica Ferg from the University of Colorado organised by the Archaeological Society of Malta and the National Museum of Archaeology.

13 March: **Stories and histories: The genesis of the national collection of paintings and sculptures** – a lecture by Sandro Debono at MUŻA.

18 March: **Not marble not the gilded monuments ... Public statues in an anxious present**, a lecture by Pam Meecham from the University of Malta, at MUŻA.

4 April: **Victor Pasmore, a talk about his life in Malta**, at MUŻA.

17 April: Lecture by the **Archaeological Society of Malta** at the National Museum of Archaeology.

23 April: **Artificial intelligence and museums** – a talk by Mark Bugeja, Wilbert Tabone and Dylan Seychell at MUŻA.

30 April: **Coffee in early modern Malta**: a study in complementarity in historical and archaeological sources, by Nathaniel Cutajar; organised by the Historical Society of Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

3 May: **Fort St Angelo and the Royal Navy 1906-1979**, a lecture by Matthew Balzan at Fort St Angelo.

21 May: **The sculptor Frans Galea (1945-1994)**, at MUŻA.

29 May: **Emvin Cremona (1919-1987): The man and his art**, at MUŻA.

29 May: **Mission impossible: The archaeology of Lampedusa in three days, episode II** – A lecture by Prof Anthony Bonanno organised by the Archaeological Society of Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology.

29 May: **Of Markets and Melting-Pots – Commercial Spaces in Early Modern Valletta**, by Christian Mifsud; organised by the Malta Historical Society at the National Library of Malta.

11 June: **An introduction to heraldry**, with special reference to nobility in Malta, by Dr Charles Gauci at the Casino Maltese.

10 September: **Children on paintings**: Teaching history of childhood in Fine Arts museums, by Dr Orsolya Endrody, at MUŻA.

15 October: **Tas-Silġ excavations** – lecture on the latest excavations and discoveries, by the Archaeological Society of Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

16 October: **Esprit Barthes (1919-1987)**: 100th anniversary from his birth, at MUŻA.

25 October: **The bird collections at the National Museum of Natural History** – presentation and open discussion by John Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

6 November: **Judicial hanging in Malta**, lecture by principal curator Matthew Balzan at the National Museum of Natural History.

20 November: **Maritime connectivity and cross-cultural interactions** between Malta and Sicily during the Late Medieval period, by the Archaeological Society of Malta, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

7 December: **Salina Bay – the archaeology of a port through time**, at the Archaeology Centre of the University of Malta.

11 December: **Melita Civitas Romana Project – Year Zero**, David Cardona and Robert Brown on the preparations and objectives of this joint project, by the Archaeological Society of Malta at the National Museum of Archaeology.

27 December: **Testimony of a bygone time**: study of a gentleman's banyan and cap, by Claire Bonavia at the National Library of Malta.

EVENTS ORGANISED BY HM

15 January: **Prehistoric trail for school children** at Ta' Hagarat and Skorba Temples.

18 January: **The Maltese natural environment – does it have a future?** – filming of documentary and open discussion by John Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

22-30 January: **Matematika fil-Katakombi Rumani**, educational programme at Ta' Bistra Catacombs.

24 January: **Ftira: A marker of identity?** – an open discussion by Dr Noel Buttigieg on the occasion of *ftira* being considered for inclusion in UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 January: **Guided visits to Tas-Silġ and Fort Delimara** – a guided tour to these two sites not regularly open to the public.

27 January: **Open day at Skorba and Ta' Ħaġrat Temples** – free entrance and guided tours.

1, 7-8 February: participation in the **Għar Dalam excavation project** by students of the Birżebbuġa Primary School.

10 February: **Reduced admission fee for San Pawl Milqi**, including guided tours, mass and honey demonstrations.

11-15 February: **Ħlejjaq li jgħixu madwarna**, educational programme at the National Museum of Natural History.

12 February: Official presentation of the **donation of the scaled model of HMS Penelope**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

17 February: **Mortem – A Roman's Last Journey**, including lectures, re-enactments and activities for children, at St Paul's Catacombs.

21 February: **Prehistoric trail for school children** at Ta' Ħaġrat and Skorba Temples.

22 February: **The song of the Earth – A natural history of music with David Attenborough** – filming of documentary and open discussion by John Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

23 February: **Special guided tour of MUŻA** for Heritage Malta members.

25 – 29 February: **Niżfnu l-Parata – Carnival education programme** at the Inquisitor's Palace and Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu.

4, 6, 19, 21 February: special **educational programme for students with learning disabilities**, at Fort St Elmo.

6 March: Special **event for the visually impaired** focused on the Phoenician shipwreck, including exploration of a scaled 3D model and access to an original amphora, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

7-8, 11-14, 18-22 March: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja. Il-Folklor Malti: is-superstizzjoni, ix-xogħol tal-qoton u l-ilbies tal-imġhoddi**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

10 March: **Open day at Haġar Qim and Mnajdra Temples** – activities, free entrance and guided tours.

12 March: Official presentation of the **donation of Vertot's *History of the Knights of Malta* (Vol. I)** at the Malta Maritime Museum.

13 March: Official launching of the **Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

16 March: **Guided tour of San Anton Palace** for Heritage Malta members.

18 March: **Sleep over and special behind the scenes tour** including light dinner and breakfast, at the National Museum of Natural History.

19 March: **Open day at the Domus Romana** – free entrance and guided tours for the general public.

19-20 March: **Spring equinox at sunrise at Mnajdra Temples**, including guided tour and refreshments.

22 March: **Strangers in the garden** – filming of documentary and open discussion by John Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

29 March: **Wine making tour**, including guided explanation of grape delivery areas, fermentation halls and wine tasting session.

30 March: **Curator's guided tour** of the exhibition 'Core and Periphery: Mdina and Safi in the 9th and 10th centuries', at the National Museum of Archaeology.

31 March: **Reduced admission and viewing of the Regatta**, including the 'Behind Closed Doors' exhibition, at Fort St Angelo.

1-5 April: ***Muża u immaginazzjoni***, workshop on the temples for young children at Tarxien Temples.

1-5 April: ***Ġmiel il-Ħrafa***, fieldwork sessions for young children, at Ġgantija Temples.

2-5, 9-10 April: ***Induqu l-ħelu tal-Ġħid*** – cooking of traditional Easter sweets for young children, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3, 10 April: **Introductory course to Maltese history** to inmates at the Corradino Correctional Facility.

5 April: **Dawra Dalam** – evening guided tours of Għar Dalam and Borġ in-Nadur, including refreshments.

9, 11-12 April: **Pax Romana** – an educational programme on Roman culture at the Domus Romana.

13 April: Special **tour of Villa Frere gardens** for Heritage Malta members.

13, 14 April: **Taste history Gozo; a dinner at De Soldanis**, at the Gran Castello Historic House and Cultural centre of the Cittadella.

14 April: **Open day at Fort St Elmo**, including curators' tours, re-enactments and activities for children.

15 April: **Citadel multi-disciplinary workshops** over five workstations, at the Gozo Citadel.

16 April: **Birżebbuġa trail** for Rabat Middle School, at the Għar Dalam valley area.

17 April: Official launch of the **Heritage Malta Senior Passport** scheme, at Fort St Elmo.

25 April: **Dairy products in 17th and 18th century Malta**: Inquisitor's Historic Cook-along session No. 6, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

26 April: **Aliens and pests in the Maltese Islands** – filming of documentary and open discussion by John Borg at the National Museum of Natural History.

28 April: **Open day at Ta' Kola Windmill**, including guided tours, local delicacies and rotation of the windmill's vanes.

28 April: **Special tours of Kordin Temple** as part of the Heritage Malta VISA passport scheme activities.

30 April: Special viewing of the **fireworks festival** from Fort St Angelo, including visit to the exhibition and refreshments.

30 April – 17 May: **Unity through food**, a video installation by Zarifa Dag, at MUŻA.

3, 6-10 May: **Ġmiel il-*Hrafa*** – educational fieldwork sessions at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3, 6-10 May: **Ġmiel il-*Hrafa*** – educational fieldwork sessions at Ġgantija Temples.

11 May: Curator's **tours of Fort Delimara and Tas-Silġ**.

12 May: Reduced admission and **guided tours of Ta' Mintna Catacombs**.

13, 30 May: **Għax Differenti**, educational programme at St Paul's Catacombs.

14-15, 17, 20-24, 27 May: **Nivvjaġġaw lura fiż-żmien** – fieldwork sessions at Haġar Qim Temples.

15 May: **Introductory course to Maltese history** to inmates at the Corradino Correctional Facility.

16 May: Special **guided tours of the Behind Closed Doors exhibition** to students from the Gozo College, at Fort St Angelo.

18 May: Exclusive HM members **tour of Fort Mosta and Ta' Bistra Catacombs**.

19 May: **Open day at the gardens of Villa Frere**, including guided tours.

26 May: **Curator's tour of Fort St Angelo**, including the section managed by the Order of St John.

2 June: **Guided tours of Abbatija tad-Dejr** and community garden public clean-up at a special reduced price.

7 June: **Kordin Temples** exclusively open for Heritage Malta Passport Visa holders.

9 June: **Open Day at the National Museum of Natural History**, including crafts, lectures and behind the scenes tours.

11 June: **Commemoration of the first victims of WWII** for Heritage Malta members, including a guided tour of lower Valletta and Fort St Elmo.

15 June: **Malta Philharmonic Orchestra string quartet** on the occasion of the European Archaeology Days, at Tarxien Temples.

16 June: **Aspects of the Castrum Maris in 1400**, including guided tours and historical re-enactment by the HRGM, at Fort St Angelo.

21 June: **Behind Closed Doors: Memory Box**, with an open discussion with ex-service personnel, at Fort St Angelo.

21-22 June: **Summer solstice at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra.**

22 June: **Heritage trail of San Pawl Milqi and St Paul's Islands.**

23 June: Commemorative mass in **remembrance of the victims of the fall of Fort St Elmo** during the Great Siege, at Fort St Elmo.

28 June: **Public tour of Għar Dalam, Borg in-Nadur and Ta' Kaċċatura** Roman Villa, traditional food and sleep-over at Għar Dalam.

5 July: **Sunset Tour** at the at Ħaġar Qim and Mnajdra archaeological park, including the Misqa Tanks, the Congreve Memorial and the Ħamrija Tower.

5 July: Official launch of the **Heritage Malta Student Passport Summer Programme**, at MUŻA.

7 July: **Military Marsalforn Trail**, an exclusive tour of the Marsalforn fougasse and the Qolla l-Bajda battery for Heritage Malta student VISA passport holders.

10 July: Exclusive **sign language tour for visitors with hearing impairment**, at MUŻA.

12 July: **Meet, Greet and Discover – L-Għarusa**, an exclusive behind the scenes with the cast of *L-Għarusa*, including a tour of the museum, for Heritage Malta passport holders, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

13 July: **Comic Creation** activity as part of the Heritage Malta Passport Summer Programme, at Ħaġar Qim Temples.

17 July: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

17 July: **Creative Writing** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

18 July: **Creative Writing** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Fort St Elmo.

19 July: **Royal Navy harbour cruise**, including the Grand Harbour, Fort St Angelo and the Behind Closed Doors exhibition.

20 July: **Comic Creation** activity as part of the Heritage Malta Passport Summer Programme, at Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre.

20 July: Heritage Malta exclusive **members tour of the *Culhat al Belt: Sette Giugno 1919-2019* exhibition**, Parliament Building, Valletta.

22, 29 July: **Discover the Catacombs** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at St Paul's Catacombs.

22, 29 July: **Discover the Castle** - educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Citadel, Gozo.

23, 30 July: **Traditions and Games** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

24 July: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

24, 31 July: **Behind Closed Doors** educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at Fort St Angelo.

25 July: **Story Telling** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Fort St Angelo.

25 July: **The Marine Environment** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the National Museum of Natural History.

26 July: **Story Telling** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at MUŻA.

26 July: **Sette Giugno** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Parliament Building.

27 July: **Comic Creation** activity as part of the Heritage Malta Passport Summer Programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.

31 July: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

1, 8, 22, 29 August: **The Marine Environment** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the National Museum of Natural History.

2, 9, 23, 30 August: **Sette Giugno** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Parliament Building.

5, 12, 19, 26 August: **Discover the Catacombs** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at St Paul's Catacombs.

5, 12, 19, 26 August: **Discover the Castle** - educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Citadel, Gozo.

6, 13, 20, 27 August: **Traditions and Games** – educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

7 August: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at St Paul's Catacombs.

7, 21, 28 August: **Behind Closed Doors** - educational activity for SkolaSajf students, at Fort St Angelo.

7 August: **Joseph German's tour of Fort St Angelo**. A trip down memory lane with the former Chief Petty Officer of the fort.

12 – 13 August: **Tell me a Story** animated stories part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Ġgantija Temples.

14 August: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at MUŻA.

28 August: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Għar Dalam.

28 August: **MUZArtisti**, official public call for temporary exhibitions at MUŻA.

30 August: **Behind Closed Doors curator's guided tour**; exclusive Heritage Malta members' summer event, at Fort St Angelo.

31 August: **Comic Creation** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Haġar Qim Temples.

4 September: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at Hagar Qim Temples.

7 September: **Comic Creation** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the National Museum of Natural History.

8 September: **Open Day at Fort St Angelo**, with reduced admission for a great number of events and viewing of the regatta.

11 September: **Art Blast** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

12 September: **Tell me a Story** animated stories part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at St Paul's Catacombs.

11 – 13 September: **Tell me a Story** animated stories part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

14 September: **Comic Creation** workshop as part of the Heritage Malta's Passport summer programme, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

15 September: **Niftakar Ta' Bistra – Open day and Memory Collection** event, at Ta' Bistra Catacombs.

17 September: **Official presentation** of the donation of an oil on canvas painting of Manoel Mizzi by Carmelo Borg Pisani, by Dr Albert Ganado, at the latter's residence, Valletta.

21 September: **Autumn Equinox viewing**, exclusive event for Heritage Malta members, at Mnajdra Temples.

21 September: **Public Service Week** – Open day of all Heritage Malta sites in Malta and Gozo.

22 – 23 September: **Autumn Equinox** event, including a guided tour of Mnajdra and the visitor centre, at Mnajdra Temples.

28 – 29 September: **Open days at the Valletta Underground Experience** on the occasion of Public Service Week.

2 October: Official launch of **Heritage Malta's education programme** for 2019-2020, press conference at MUŻA.

6 October: **EkoDala**m – a full day of educational activities focusing on the environment, with the participation of various environmental institutions, at Għar Dalam.

13 October: **Aspects of the Castrum Maris in 1400** – medieval re-enactment at Fort St Angelo.

16-17 October: **Sette Giugno – causes and consequences**, educational programme at the National Museum of Archaeology.

16 October: **L-Arkeologija Marittima**, outreach talk for Year 8 students at St Augustine's College.

19 October: **The Inquisitor's Porcelain in 18th century Malta** – exclusive Heritage Malta members guided tour at the Inquisitor's Palace.

20 October: **Open day at Tarxien Temples**, including guided tours and the official launch of the Tarxien Temples guidebook.

23 October: **L-Arkeologija Marittima**, outreach talk for Year 8 students at Naxxar Middle School.

28-31 October: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja. Il-Folklor Malti: is-superstizzjoni, ix-xogħol tal-qoton u l-ilbies tal-imghoddi**, educational programme at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 November: **L-Għid tal-Erwieħ** – Talks on the Addolorata Cemetery and the traditional supper in remembrance of the deceased, complete with supper and sleepover in the prison cells, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

3 November: **Open Day at St Paul's and St Augustine's Catacombs**, including guided tours, pottery washing, and educational activities.

4 November: **Exclusive tour of San Pawl Milqi** for holders of the Heritage Malta Passport Visa.

7 November: Launch of **Venice Biennale children's book** and activity on evolution at Birżebbuġa Primary School.

8 November: Evening **torchlight guided tour at Tarxien Temples**.

10 November: **Commemoration event** of the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of WWII and Armistice Day of 11 November 1918, including patrols, drills, re-enactments and talks at Fort St Elmo.

10 November: **Garrison Life in 1790** – re-enactment of the *Reggimento di Malta* by the Historical Re-Enactment Group Malta, at Fort St Angelo.

11-14 November: **Muża u immaġinazzjoni**, workshop on the temples for young children at Tarxien Temples.

12 November: **A walk around the Sette Giugno riots** – guided tours around the key sites in Valletta where the revolt unfolded, for Heritage Malta Senior Passport holders, from the National Museum of Archaeology.

13 November: **L-Arkeologija Marittima**, outreach talk for Year 8 students at Kirkop Middle School.

18-22, 25-29 November: **Il-Malti fl-Istorja. Il-Folklor Malti: is-superstizzjoni, ix-xogħol tal-qoton u l-ilbies tal-imgħoddi**, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

21-25 November: **Drawwiet u Tradizzjonijiet marbuta ma' Novembru**, educational programme at the Inquisitor's Palace.

22 November: **Brushing Time** – presentations on the Għar Dalam cave deposits and the excavation of a small shed at Għar Dalam, including cleaning and sorting excavated material, at the National Museum of Natural History.

23 November: **Food through history** – educational event for Erasmus programme students, at the Malta Maritime Museum and the kitchen of the Inquisitor's Palace.

26-30 November: **Stories at the Museum**, workshops on story telling for Heritage Malta Senior Passport holders, at MUŻA and St Paul's Catacombs.

30 November: **Brillantini tal-Kitba**, introduction to different writing genres for aspiring authors, in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

1 December: **Open day at Villa Frere**, including guided tours.

2 December: **Niskopru l-Ipogew ta' Hal Saflieni**, outreach talk for Year 6 students at St Augustine's College.

2-6 December: **Tradizzjonijiet tal-Milied**, educational programme and cooking bread pudding, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

6-8 December: **Christmas at the Fort** – Christmas village, artisan stands, workshops and activities at Fort St Angelo.

11 December: The **Maltese corsair saved on Christmas day** – Heritage Malta members' exclusive event including guided tour and Taste History nibbles at the Malta Maritime Museum.

11 December: **L-Arkeologija Marittima**, outreach talk for Year 8 students at De La Salle College.

17 December: Official launch of the publication **Malta's Prehistoric Treasures**, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

20 December: Special guided tour of the **Sette Giugno exhibition** with family descendants of the victims, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

21 December: **Winter solstice** event at Mnajdra Temples.

27 December: **Tell me a story** – Heritage Malta passport event at the National Museum of Archaeology.

EVENTS IN WHICH HM PARTICIPATED

16 March: **Lejl Imkebbes** – a festival of lights at the Citadel, during which all Heritage Malta's museums were open free of charge until 11pm.

26 March: Official launch of the UNESCO application of ***Il-Ftira: the culinary art and culture of flattened sourdough bread in Malta*** for Malta's first inscription as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, at *Spazju Kreattiv*, St James Cavalier.

29 March: Exhibition of a replica of the donation deed of Charles V to the Order of St John on the occasion of the **fifty years of Hispano-Maltese relations**, at Verdala Palace.

30 March: Official launching of the **I-ACCESS project** (Valletta), at MUŻA.

28 April: **Festa Frawli** – reduced price for hourly guided tours at Ta' Ħaġrat Temples.

23 April: **SKOPERTA** – seminar marking the 50th anniversary from the discovery of the secret passage and skeleton bones at the Old Parish Church of St Catherine, Żejtun.

4 May: **Gozo Alive** – all Citadel sites open to the public free of charge on the occasion of Gozo Alive.

4 – 5 May: The National Museum of Natural History open at a reduced price, including a number of activities, on the occasion of **Medieval Mdina**.

7-8 September: **Cittadella Museums Open Day**, in collaboration with the Cittadella Arts Festival.

27 September: **Science in the City – Art Detectives** demonstrations by the Diagnostic Science Laboratories, at MUŻA.

5 October: **Notte Bianca** – Heritage Malta museums in Valletta open free of charge, including various musical and other performances.

11 – 13 October: **BirguFest** – all Heritage Malta museums in Vittoriosa open at a reduced price, including guided tours and other activities.

6 – 10 November: **Malta Book Festival**, at the Mediterranean Conference Centre, Valletta.

13 November: **The diaries of Paymaster John Cecil Baker**: The British Mediterranean Fleet c.1894-1901, lecture by James Hamberger at the National Library of Malta.

EVENTS ORGANISED IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHERS

10 March: **Aspects of the Castrum Maris in 1400** – Medieval re-enactment and presentations by the Historical Re-Enactment Group Malta at Fort St Angelo.

17 March: **Glarac remembrance ceremony** organised in collaboration with the Glarac Association, at Fort St Elmo.

29 March: Official **handing over of the inventory of historic items** at the presidential palaces with outgoing President Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca and incoming President Dr George Vella, at San Anton Palace.

6 April: **Prehistoric food** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at Haġar Qim.

7 April: **Hail the Romans** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at the Domus Romana.

8 April: **Half day seminar** for educational officers in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, at St Paul's Catacombs.

13-14 April: **Easter traditions** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

5 May: **Welcoming the swifts** – an event to celebrate the swifts' breeding season in collaboration with Birdlife Malta, on the occasion of Medieval Mdina, at the National Museum of Natural History.

19 May: **French Garrison at Fort St Angelo** – Re-enactment of garrison life during the French period in collaboration with the Historical Re-Enactment Group Malta at Fort St Angelo.

4 May: ***Xalati ta' Kitba*** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Ġgantija Temples.

11 May: ***Xalati ta' Kitba*** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 June: ***Xalati ta' Kitba*** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at MUŻA.

4 June: Half day **seminar for educational officers** in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, at MUŻA.

15 June: ***Xalati ta' Kitba*** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

1 July: Half day **seminar for educational officers** in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, at MUŻA.

3 July: **Temple percussion** by Chinese percussionist Beibei Wang at Haġar Qim, in collaboration with the China Cultural Centre.

11 July: **Guthan Aosda – Ancient Voices**, a music-dance performance at Haġar Qim, as part of the Malta International Arts Festival.

11 July: **Open day at Tas-Silġ**, for the public to view the latest excavations, in collaboration with the Department of Classics and Archaeology.

24 July: Official **presentation of Gabriel Caruana's ceramic installation 'Energy Field'** from Enemalta to Heritage Malta, at MUŻA, in collaboration with the Ministry for Energy and Water Management.

6 September: Official launch of the publication ***Maestri d'Olanda e di Fiandra nei mari del sud***, in collaboration with *Comune di Palazzo San Gervasio* and *Pinacoteca e Bibliotheca C. d'Errico*, at MUŻA.

6 September: **Bat Night** including guided tour and sleep-over at the National Museum of Natural History, in collaboration with the Environment and Resources Authority.

14 September: Stravinski's **The Rite of Spring concert** in collaboration with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, at Ta' Mintna Catacombs.

6 October: **Open day at Villa Frere**, in collaboration with Friends of Villa Frere.

6 October: **Bat night** at Għar Dalam, in collaboration with the Environment and Resources Authority.

17 October: **Movimento** – Recognising the tools of choreography in dance, engaging sessions on contemporary dance in collaboration with *ŻfinMalta*, at MUŻA.

21-25 October: **Forti Sant'Anġlu – Ġirja bejn il-passat u l-futur**, educational programme at Fort St Angelo.

26 October: **Xalati ta' Kitba** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Ġgantija Temples.

31 October: Official launch of the publication ***lċ-Ċimiterju ta' Santa Marija Addolorata. Storja, Arti, Personalitajiet***, on the 150th anniversary of the Addolorata Cemetery, at the Addolorata Cemetery, in collaboration with Campo Santo Ltd.

2 November: **Open Day at MUZA and the Grand Master's Palace**, including guided tours, art and other educational activities, and exclusive tours of the Palace corridors restoration project, in collaboration with the Planning Priorities Coordination Division.

6 November: **Half day seminar** for educational officers in collaboration with the Ministry for Education, at Fort St Angelo.

10 November: **Discovering the Romans** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at the Domus Romana.

15 November: **Embracing Cultural Heritage through Technology** – Digital invasion event in collaboration with Tech.mt, at the Inquisitor's Palace.

16 November: ***Xalati ta' Kitba*** – literacy skills workshop in collaboration with the National Literacy Agency, at Fortress Builders.

20 November: **Official presentation of John Hookham Frere painting** to Friends of Villa Frere on the occasion of the 250th anniversary from his birth, at Heritage Malta Head Office, Bighi.

23 November: **Konts and Codes** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at Fort St Angelo.

23 November: **Evening at the Museum** – music performance in collaboration with Electronic Music Malta, Black Box Pro and the German Maltese Circle, at the National Museum of Archaeology.

24 November: **Prehistoric food** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at Haġar Qim.

30 November: Official launch of the publication **Pioneers of Modern Art in Malta, Vol. II**, in collaboration with Artemisia Fine Arts and Antiques, at MUŻA.

1 December: **Aspects of the *Castrum Maris* in 1400** – Medieval re-enactment and presentations by the Historical Re-Enactment Group Malta at Fort St Angelo.

15 December: **Discovering the Romans** – educational programme in collaboration with the MTA, at the Domus Romana.

EVENTS HOSTED BY HM

4-22 February: **Progett Anderson**, workshop on tales of Hans Christian Anderson by the Drama Unit, at Fort St Angelo.

15 March: **Neolithic Steel** – a concert as part of the Gaultana Festival of Music at the Ġgantija Temples.

30 March: ‘Planting story seeds’ **storytelling workshop** for children at the National Museum of Natural History.

31 March: Official launch of the **Valletta Cultural Agency** at the National Museum of Archaeology.

10 May: **Presentation of Quality Assured Awards** by MTA, at the Gran Salon, National Museum of Archaeology.

18 May: **Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition** – seminar organised by ICOM on the occasion of International Museums Day, at the Inquisitor’s Palace.

7-9, 14-16 June: **VII (Sette)**, musical on the occasion of the centenary of the *Sette Giugno* by *Teatru Malta*, at Fort St Elmo.

15 June: Graduation ceremony by the IMO **International Maritime Law Institute**, at the Malta Maritime Museum.

23 September: **European Ministerial Meeting on Migration**, at Fort St Angelo.

4 October: **Days of Moscow in Malta**, exhibition and concert, at the Fortress Builders Interpretation Centre.

13, 20, 27 October: **In Guardia!** Historical re-enactments by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

18 October: **A high-quality Baukultur for Europe:** Examples from the Alpine and Mediterranean Context, a conference organised by the Ministry for Justice, Culture and Local Government in collaboration with the Swiss Embassy for Malta, at MUŻA.

17, 24 November: **In Guardia!** Historical re-enactments by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

1, 8, 15 December: **In Guardia!** Historical re-enactments by the Malta Tourism Authority at Fort St Elmo.

12 December: **More or Less Theatre**, drama production and temple tour at Hagar Qim Temples.

APPENDIX 2

PURCHASE OF MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY ARTWORKS (Vote 5557)

Artist	Title of artwork	Price in €
Giorgio Preca	Self-Portrait	15,000
Frans Galea	Umbrellas	15,000
Trevor Borg	Cave of Darkness Port of No Return	5,500
	Landline/Waterline	1,200
	Crossfire – Concerning the Nature of Our Culture	3,400
	Painting 1	1,600
	Painting 2	850
Charlie Cauchi	Sempre Viva	9,000
Raphael Vella	Pulp	2,301
Paul Scerri	Seeing the unseen	4,500

APPENDIX 3

ACQUISITION OF NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS

Deposited by the Police (Administrative Law Enforcement) on 28 August:

- 2 White Stork
- 2 Osprey
- 2 Open-billed Stork
- 1 Booted Eagle
- 1 Eurasian Bittern
- 1 Barn Owl
- 1 Marsh Harrier
- 1 Great Cormorant
- 1 Roller
- 1 Lanner Falcon
- 1 Black-shouldered Kite
- 1 Pallas's Gull
- 1 Yellow-billed Stork
- 1 Eurasian Spoonbill
- 1 Carmine Bee-eater
- 1 Tree Sparrow
- 1 Redstart
- 1 Robin
- 1 Yelkouan Shearwater
- 1 Oystercatcher
- 1 Collared Pratincole
- 1 Dunlin
- 1 Gull-billed Tern
- 1 Whiskered Tern
- 2 European Bee-eater
- 1 Glossy Ibis
- 1 Black-tailed Godwit
- 1 Slender-billed Gull
- 1 Black-winged Stilt

Deposited by the Customs Department on 5 June:

- 1 Woodpecker carcass
- 1 Cormorant skin

Deposited by the Police (Administrative Law Enforcement) on 3 September:

- 1 African Jacana
- 1 Pallas's Gull

APPENDIX 4

PURCHASE OF ITEMS FOR THE GOZO MUSEUM

Object Type	Title	Author	Date	Supplier	Price in €
Painting	Gozitan women making lace	George Large (b.1936)	21st century	Peter Apap Bologna, Sliema	11,000
Painting	The Inland Sea	Mary Fedden (1915-2012)	2004	Portland Gallery, London	8,092.88
Lithograph x2, Preparatory drawing x1	Gozo Fields; Santu Pietru; Original preparatory drawing for Gozo Fields	Evelyn Gibbs (1905-1991)	1977; 1977; Undated	Joseph Borg, Hal Balzan	1,200.00
Stone sculpture	Antique street niche representing St Jerome	Anon.	Very probably 17th c.	Rev. Joseph Calleja, Sannat	3,500.00
Rare book	Notes of a Naturalist in the Nile Valley and Malta	Andrew Leith Adams (1827-1882)	1870	Forum Auctions, London	262 GBP
Painting	Self-portrait	Mario Caffaro Rore (1910-2001)	1970s	Adriana Caffaro Rore, Torino	480.00
Bundle of antiques	Kitchen ware (x7); male clothing/ accessories (x2); military items (x1); wrought iron (x1)	N/A	20th c.	Maria Cassar, Gharb	250.00
Clothing	Occasion female jackets (x2); cotton skirt; female underdress; wedding dress (green); wedding dress (white)	First 4 items produced and worn by Lippina (Filippina) Mercieca (1892-1967) of Gharb	Early 20th c.	Alda Bugeja, Victoria	500.00
Pencil drawing, ink and watercolour	<i>Solenne Processione Vaticana del Corpus Domini</i>	Salvatore Busuttil (1798-1854)	mid-19th c.	Pandolfini Casa d'Aste, Firenze	19,279.05
Papier maché	Pair of Maltese peasants	Anon. 19th c.	19th c.	Adam's Fine Art Auctioneers, Dublin	380.00
Painting	Abstract	Victor Pasmore (1908-1998)	1992	Ted M. Mizzi, Victoria	10,000

APPENDIX 5

ACQUISITION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE ITEMS

I. PURCHASES

Seller	Object No.	Description	Price in €	Collection
Christie's, New York	63299	Pencil and watercolour drawing of <i>St Paul's Bay</i> by Edward Lear, dated 24 March 1866	13,381	MUŽA
Obelisk Auction Gallery	62035	18 th c. oil painting of <i>The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin to St Elizabeth</i>	794.25	Gozo ethnography
Cleaven Fenech	79255	<i>Kavetta</i> (fishmonger's wooden box)	15.00	Gozo Museum
Raymond Camilleri	79256	Cheese-drying wooden box	70.00	Gozo Museum
Jason Galea	79257	Oil painting of <i>The Crucifix (Kurċifiss tax-Xitan)</i>	750.00	Gozo ethnography
Jesmond Mercieca	79552	Four wooden chairs	35.00	Gozo ethnography
Ebay	72205	Cardinal Fabrizio Verallo, former Inquisitor of Malta between 1600 and 1605, engraving, c. 1760	25.00	Inquisitor's Palace
Gigi's Antiques, Birkirkara	72204	Coffee roaster consisting of one base and two roasting cylinders	100.00	Inquisitor's Palace
Gigi's Antiques, Birkirkara		Wooden butcher's block c.1930	220.00	Inquisitor's Palace
Ebay	72283	Alessandro Specchi (1668-1729), Palazzo dell' Ecc. Sig. Principe Chigi in Piazza Colonna (Palazzo Chigi in Piazza Colonna), original etching, Published 1699, Rome	265.00	Inquisitor's Palace
Ebay	72282	Alessandro Specchi (1668-1729), Prospetto e veduta del palazzo d. Curia Romana, original etching, Published 1699, Rome	265.00	Inquisitor's Palace
Sotheby's New York	61837	Sculpture of St Rose of Lima by Melchiorre Gafà	66,000.00	MUZA
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61874	Silk commemorative, Ai Novelli Sposi	50.00	Ethnography
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61875	Sonetto Pastorale, Christmas day King George	80.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61876	GM Palace black and white 1940s photographs	170.00	Grand Master's Palace

Belgravia Auction Gallery	61877	St John's black and white 1940s photographs	20.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61878	Publication: Description Governors' Palaces 1895	110.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61879	Manuscript report on the Finances of Malta, 1812	170.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61880	Manuscript collection of Giorgio Mitrovich	750.00	Malta Maritime Museum
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61881	Manuscript signed and annotated by Giorgio Mitrovich	4,800.00	Malta Maritime Museum
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61883	Manuscript Vincenzo Borg Brared, Blocco di Malta 1798	2,700.00	Malta Maritime Museum
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61882	Rules and Regulations – His Majesty's Colonial Possessions	40.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61884	Rules and Regulations Colonial Services 1843	30.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61885	Processo di Charles Delano	600.00	Malta Maritime Museum
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61886	Rules and Regulations Colonial Services 1856	20.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	61887	Ordini permanenti per il Regimento Siciliano	140.00	National War Museum
Ebay	61928	Original envelope stamped 28 May 1957 including notes on history of Malta	14.23	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	61952	Original letter sent by leading WREN Robinson	11.53	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62000	Original photograph Princess Elizabeth on Admiral's barge, 1951	28.90	Fort St Angelo
Gigi's Antiques, Birkirkara	62003	Original brass ship crest HMS St Angelo manufactured at Malta Dockyard 1940s	380.00	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62004	Original photograph USS Lowry passing by Fort St Angelo 24 March 1965	6.30	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62020	Engraving Fort St Angelo	28.00	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62025	Original postcard dghajsa with Fort St Angelo in background	8.49	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62050	Original postcard 1847 depiction of Grand Harbour and Fort St Angelo	6.99	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	65768	Postcard Fort St Angelo	3.40	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	65767	Photograph Fort St Angelo 1930	14.51	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	65766	Photograph Fort St Angelo 1930	14.51	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	65765	Photograph Fort St Angelo 1912	27.32	Fort St Angelo

Ebay	62546	Engraving/aquatint Fort St Angelo 31 October 1812	85.56	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62572	Original cut-out print Napoleon's Generals Savary & Lallemand	12.49	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62629	Postcard Fort St Angelo from Lower Barrakka	10.67	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62630	French €0.85 stamp of Fort St Angelo incorrectly listed as Fort St Elmo, 2017	1.85	Fort St Angelo
Belgravia Auction Gallery	62639	Set of six French Empire appliques/wall sconces c.1800	120.00	Grand Master's Palace
Gigi's Antiques, Birkirkara	62640	Booklet programme of events 31 March 1979	20.00	Fort St Angelo
Ebay	62864	Postcard Fort St Angelo from Upper Barracca	6.33	Fort St Angelo
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63325	Emvin Cremona design for the Malta Stand at the Osaka Expo of 1970 + memorabilia	1,900	MUZA
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63326	Portrait of a Knight Grand Cross	1,270.80	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63327	Portrait of a <i>Chevalier demi Croix de Malte</i>	3,300.00	Grand Master's Palace
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63328	Giuseppe Calleja drawing of the Palace's main staircase, 1853	741.30	Grand Master's Palace

Purchases by Government Entities

J. Fenech Portelli	62869	Painting St Matthew's Chapel, Qrendi	250.00	OPM
K. Zammit Tabona	62870	Painting Upholstery and Vases	2400.00	OPM
R. Cefai	62871	Painting Triplicate Study 01	850.00	OPM
R. Cefai	62872	Painting Valletta Street Scene	800.00	OPM
J. Fenech Portelli	63307	Painting Street Scene	750.00	MJCL
J. Fenech Portelli	63308	Painting Gozo Street Scene	750.00	MJCL
M. Formosa	61818	Painting Sunset at Hagar Qim	271.00	OPM

II. DONATIONS

Donor	Object No.	Object description	Collection
Joseph Sagona	79229	Manually operated hand-drill (<i>safsafel</i>)	Gozo ethnography
Joseph Sagona	79230	Enamel wick stove (<i>spiritiera</i>)	Gozo ethnography
Mary Doris Said	79254	White lace doily	Gozo ethnography
Carmelina Camilleri	62030	<i>Għonnella</i> and matching suit	Gozo Museum
Raymond Cassar	79260	31 hunting cartridges	Gozo ethnography
Raymond Cassar	79261	Traditional canvas sack (<i>xkora tal-faxx</i>)	Gozo ethnography

Raymond Cassar	79262	Ammunition hunting belt	Gozo ethnography
Santa Marta Day Centre	79263-64	Mid-20 th c. weaving looms x2	Gozo ethnography
Anthony Cauchi	62548	Faux leather school satchel	Gozo ethnography
Frances Fenech	79279	Early 20 th c. ice-cream mixer	Gozo ethnography
Joseph Sagona	79278	Enamel baby bath tub	Gozo ethnography
Sandra Mizzi	79274	Traditional mattress cover	Gozo ethnography
Sandra Mizzi	79275-76	Pea and rice sacks	Gozo ethnography
Sandra Mizzi	79277	Blue enamel chamber pot	Gozo ethnography
Vicky Galea	79266	Cotton pyjama trousers	Gozo ethnography
Vicky Galea	79267	Navy blue skirt	Gozo ethnography
Vicky Galea	79268	Wheat flour sack	Gozo ethnography
Vicky Galea	79269	Cotton shirt	Gozo ethnography
Vicky Galea	79270-72	20 th c. vests x3	Gozo ethnography
Joseph Said	61838	Oil on canvas portrait of John Hookham Frere	Villa Frere
Dr Peter Shields	62053-62380	327 photograph negatives shot by Dr Shields for Associated Press	Ethnography
Joseph Garman	61815	CPO winter uniform blazer	Fort St Angelo
Joseph Garman	61816	Leading Seaman uniform belt	Fort St Angelo
Joseph Garman	61817	Bosun's mate whistle	Fort St Angelo
Joseph Garman	61840	Long Service Medal	Fort St Angelo
Sharon Packman	61822	BFBS station magazine last issue 1979	Fort St Angelo
Sharon Packman	61823	Set of six photographs 1978-79	Fort St Angelo
Clive Bridgeman	61824	Set of 36 photos 1950s	Fort St Angelo
Carmel Bugeja	61839	NAAFI whiskey bottle	Fort St Angelo
Henry Vella	61841	Naval Ratings Handbook	Fort St Angelo
Kenneth Gambin	61890	31 March 1979 celebrations commemorative booklet	Fort St Angelo
Alfred Stubbings	61892-93	Two HMS St Angelo library books	Fort St Angelo
Elaine Zerafa	61927	WRNS uniform insignia	Fort St Angelo
Elaine Zerafa	61926	WRNS uniform brush	Fort St Angelo
Angelo Gilford	61953-56, 62004	Four sets of AB summer uniforms and haversack	Fort St Angelo
Josephine Spiteri	61983-89	Six items formerly pertaining to Maltese cooks in the Royal Navy	Fort St Angelo
Paul Sciberras	62032	Naval Ratings Handbook, 1971	Fort St Angelo
Ludovigo Balzan	61996	Set of LS uniform insignia	Fort St Angelo
Ludovigo Balzan	61997	Number 8's working uniform shirt	Fort St Angelo
Ludovigo Balzan	61998	Set of 7 HFB schedule papers	Fort St Angelo
Ludovigo Balzan	61999	Set of 3 RN instruction sheets	Fort St Angelo
Michael Bugelli	65769	Players Navy Cut cigarette pack	Fort St Angelo
Paul Montanaro	65764	Autographed photo of Rear Admiral Cecil	Fort St Angelo
Graham and Gary Morris	62534	RN XI football team silver medal	Fort St Angelo

Graham and Gary Morris	62535	Set of 3 HMS St Angelo football medals	Fort St Angelo
Graham and Gary Morris	62536	Set of 5 war & service medals	Fort St Angelo
Charles Galea	62538	RN identity card	Fort St Angelo
Charles Galea	62537	Sailor's cap + cap tally	Fort St Angelo
Valerie Stevens	62047	Framed photo of Lt. Commander, 1978	Fort St Angelo
Valerie Stevens	62048	VHF radio set in use at HMS St Angelo	Fort St Angelo
Sue Lucas	62049	Set of 3 photos children's parties at HMS St Angelo, 1950s	Fort St Angelo
Michael Caruana	62034	Two books	Fort St Angelo
Mario Privitelli	62033	Set of 4 photos at HMS St Angelo	Fort St Angelo
Joseph Gafa	62031	Photo of Admiralty diver C. Gafa	Fort St Angelo
Nazzareno Zammit	62005	Photo of HMS St Angelo ship ring	Fort St Angelo
Spiridione Cassar	62615-17,23	Four sets of AB cook uniforms	Fort St Angelo
Spiridione Cassar	62624	Set of two photographs 1970s	Fort St Angelo
Emanuel Falzon	96018	18th century flintlock pistol	Palace Armoury
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63329	Two cast iron mortars	Palace Armoury
Mr & Mrs Hegarty	61938	Abbe de Vertot: <i>History of the Knights of Malta Vol. 1, 1728</i>	Malta Maritime Museum
Brian Franklin and Peter Lever	63330	Scaled model of HMS <i>Penelope</i> by from South Africa	Malta Maritime Museum
Tommy Barr	63331	Painting - 'Asleep on a Sea of Dreams' (Sleeping Lady)	National Museum of Archaeology
Belgravia Auction Gallery	63332	Late William IV/early Victorian card table	Grand Master's Palace
M. Camilleri	62573	Maltese flag used on G. Borg Olivier's car as PM	Ethnography
G. Agius	63301	Royal Navy ID card pertaining to Joiner C. Attard, 1950s	Fort St Angelo
G. Agius	63302	Address Label used on colonial government envelopes, entitled 'On Her Majesty's Service', 1960s	Fort St Angelo
G. Agius	63303	Envelope used by Giuseppe Barbara, Admiralty & Civil Government Contractor, 1930s	Fort St Angelo
J Spiteri	62023	Set of two Royal Navy cookery handbooks in use by CPO Cook George Vassallo, 1953 & 1960s	Fort St Angelo
J. Chetcuti	63313	Original Set of GNTCs (WRENS cadets)	Fort St Angelo
M. Boulton	63315	Christmas Menu at HMS St Angelo, 1961	Fort St Angelo
M. Boulton	63316	Photo of AB Michael Boulton at HMS St Angelo, 1961	Fort St Angelo

N. Zammit	63319	Original Admiralty photo showing HMS St Angelo staff on parade	Fort St Angelo
N. Zammit	63320	Original Admiralty photo showing parade at HMS Phoenicia	Fort St Angelo
Maurice Vassallo	63333	Early 20 th century Electrolux kerosene-operated Absorption type refrigerator	Industrial heritage
George Baldacchino Obo Archdiocese of Malta	72291	Early 20 th century loom and accompanying accessories formerly of Adelaide Cini Institute, Santa Venera	Ethnography
Joseph Bonnici	72292	115 plaster mid-20 th century moulds for crib figurines by Ġanni Bonnici (1914-88)	Ethnography
Joseph Bonnici	72293	Thirteen mid-20 th century small plaster moulds for crib figurine accessories by Ġ. Bonnici (1914-88)	Ethnography
Joseph Bonnici	72294	Ten mid-20 th century loose small plaster moulds for crib figurine accessories by Ġ. Bonnici (1914-88)	Ethnography
Joseph Bonnici	72295	Three boxes of mid-20 th century clay figurines, and 1 box of mid-20 th century unfinished clay figurines by Ġ. Bonnici (1914-88)	Ethnography
M. Portelli	72287-90	Seventeen miscellaneous textile items	Ethnography
F. Fenech	62037-46	Seven miscellaneous textile items	Ethnography
Margaret Abdilla Cunningham	79258-59	Two embroidered pillow cases	Ethnography
V. Huber	72273-76	Four hats, 1960s	Ethnography
Jeannette Huij	72206-52	Forty-six various textile items	Ethnography
C. Farrugia	72189-90	One hand-woven blanket and souvenir scarf	Ethnography
Ph. Darmanin	72272	One Maltese male costume used during Independence day events	Ethnography
Fr Joe Fsadni	72253-71	Honey production, earth-beaters tools and other items formerly of Paul Catania	Ethnography
C. Camilleri	62030	Traditional <i>ghonnella</i> with matching suit	Gozo ethnography
Joseph Bonnici	63334	Singer leather industrial sewing machine 31K18, 1937	Industrial heritage
Philippe Agius	63304	Poster of Queen Elizabeth, small sculpture, hat	Villa Guardamangia
Sandro Debono	62575	Set of ten 19 th century lithographs	MUZA
Ministry for Energy and Water Mgt	62008	Mural ceramic decoration of 48 pieces by Gabriel Caruana	MUZA
Dr Albert Ganado	63335	Portrait painting of Manoel Mizzi by Carmelo Borg Pisani	MUZA
J. Pulo	61976	Oil on canvas painting of Valletta	MUZA

Ministry for Justice, Culture & Local Govt	61842	Abstract watercolour by Alfred Chircop	MUZA
A Caruana Pettett	61939-50	Fourteen items incl. photos, pamphlets and books	National War Museum
A Borg	61958	Photos and documents on RAF Corporal 1965-79	National War Museum
F. Buhagiar	61957	Book: <i>Hbit mill-ajru fuq ir-Rotunda</i> by A. Camilleri	National War Museum
F. Buhagiar	61936	Four WWII aircraft ammunition cartridges	National War Museum
F. Buhagiar	61935	Set of nine WWII-related books	National War Museum
B. Critcher	61937	Transcript of E. Nichols' diary	National War Museum