

ODDS&ENDS

Contributions, including photos, to odds & ends are invited.
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Who knows how the brain works? Rabat council is to be congratulated on finally completing its months long parish square refurbishment. The end result is pleasing. But what on earth prompted them to name the square "Piazza della Chiesa Parrocchiale" and not the Maltese "Pjazza tal-Parrocca"? The refurbishment has seen the removal of five parking slots for motorcycles. Is the council to provide some parking places for motorcycles, when the traffic lines are drawn, or is the council only car-friendly?

While many observed the traditional ways of marking Good Friday, many others gave the impression that village feasts were on the go with drinking and making merry in the streets.

While we recognise that everyone is free to do as they please, perhaps a different venue to the village squares might have been more appropriate.

There are many Good Friday and Easter Sunday parades that are enjoyed by many. But perhaps those who get the tough end of the stick are residents of villages and cities where these processions take place. Rightly so, the police temporarily do not allow people to park their cars on the route of the procession. But residents rights should be respected. Police cannot simply block off whole streets willy nilly – creating a trap of one way systems. One reader spoke to this newspaper to vent frustration at eventually having to park a 15 minute walk away from his home

because officers would not allow him to pass through, before the procession had even started.

Local councils are supposed to be there to serve the needs of citizens. Can someone explain where the bright idea of collecting refuse at 6pm came from within the Mosta local council (for example)? Single people who work long hours simply cannot make it back on time from work to put their garbage out. More often than not, the refuse truck goes past between 5 and 6pm... what is one supposed to do, ask to leave work early or take an hour's leave to take their rubbish out?

Speaking of Mosta, the residential roads are absolutely disastrous.

While the council has put hard work into securing funding to pave streets and restore their character, it should save some money to deal with the pot holes. Driving through certain areas is like driving on the moon. Residents complain constantly and even well known radio DJ's have commented about it on their programmes.

Parliament will shortly rise from its Easter recess and leaving behind the holidays should kickstart the European Parliament elections which are to be held in June. While we hope it will be a good contest, we also hope that the recent move to heal divisions through the appointment of George Abela filters down to create a clean campaign.

Lecture on Main Guard

The next cultural presentation organised by *Din l-Art Helwa* will be that by Adrian Strickland on Thursday 16 April. Adrian Strickland, who is passionate about insignia, will be sharing his findings of the study he has made of the *Guardia della Piazza* or 'Main Guard', a historic site that has witnessed many of Malta's finest historical moments.

During his illustrated presentation Adrian Strickland will trace the history and use of this building from the 17th Century to the present day, and will also discuss the almost three hundred wall paintings in oil that adorn the walls of the only 'Officer's Guard' in the Malta Command.

Malta is peppered with British military insignia on buildings, but perhaps nowhere more than at the Main Guard on Piazza San Giorgio in Valletta.

There are numerous examples of regimental badges, historical subjects, anecdotes, cartoons and even nostalgia, to be examined among the paintings. Built by the Order of the Knights of St. John and then used by the British, this building served as a guard

house until the 1960s, while the upper part served as the Officers' Mess of the King's Own Malta Regiment.

A former 'Territorial' soldier, part time news TV cameraman, businessman and diplomat, Mr Strickland's interests have centred around insignia for many years studying the language of symbols particularly on badges, medals, heraldry and flags. He has designed, sculpted, painted and lectured at university on these subjects. Mr. Strickland has been responsible for the devising of Malta's National arms, the Municipal Arms of Malta and Gozo. He has also designed the President's standard as well as the National Order of Merit and other official medals as well as in public and private domains.

The presentation will take place at the Judge Caruana Curran Hall at 133 Melita Street, offices of *Din l-Art Helwa*.

Participants are kindly asked to be seated by 5.45pm.

Admission is free of charge, but donations towards *Din l-Art Helwa's* restoration projects would be much appreciated.

Briton brought to Malta to face charges

The police yesterday issued a statement saying that a Briton who had escaped Malta while pending trial had been brought back to Malta after being traced in the UK.

Tistan Scott Haynes, 40, was charged in the Maltese courts in 2003 on charges of inflicting serious injuries to another person.

A European Arrest Warrant was issued and the man was traced in the UL.

He was brought back to Malta on Friday and the court ordered that he be remanded in custody.

He also forfeited all guarantees relating to bail.

Arrested for cocaine possession

The police arrested four females and two males over the Easter weekend after finding them in possession of cocaine in Paceville.

In a statement, the police said that the Drug Squad arrested the six people at a

party being held in Paceville. All six, aged between 16 and 36, were found to be in possession, or under the influence, of cocaine.

They are from Qormi, Marsa, Fgura, Paola, Mellieha and Zebbug.

A unique opportunity for Maltese musicians

Whitesnake and Black Sabbath bassist Neil Murray and *Guitar Techniques* magazine co-founder Phil Hilborne will be performing a master class clinics weekend in Malta between 1 and 3 May.

One of the most highly respected and experienced bass guitarists in rock, Murray has also played with bands and musicians such as Brian May, Queen + Paul Rodgers, Gary Moore, Peter Green, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Sting just to mention a few. He has played on dozens of albums, sales of which exceed 10 million units, and has toured extensively all over Europe, Asia, Australia and North and South America.

An extraordinary British guitar player, Phil is a number one studio and live call player in London. During the past six years he has regularly performed in the massive hit Queen musical *We Will Rock You* at London's Dominion theatre in the West End (over 600 shows). He has also toured extensively with his own band and for nearly 20 years with Iron Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain. He has also worked with many other internationally acclaimed artistes.



Euro Institute of Music director Marc Galea said that this is a unique opportunity for Maltese musicians to meet two such distinct personalities in the world of music.

"Both Murray and Hilborne have played with brilliant bands all over



the world, worked on innumerable albums which have sold millions of copies worldwide. An opportunity to meet and learn from such distinguished musicians is a must for music lovers of all genres!"

Phil was also the first person in the

UK to write regular Rock instructional columns in *Guitarist* magazine and also co-founded *Guitar Techniques* magazine and has had articles published in *Guitar World*, *Total Guitar*, *Guitar* (France) and *Guitarista* (Spain). He was curriculum director for the Brighton Institute of Modern Music and has performed guitar master class clinics all over the UK and Europe. He is currently the Musical Director of NYRO – the National Youth Rock Orchestra and has written and contributed to numerous books and many film/TV programmes on the subject of Rock Guitar – including a best-selling collection of classic guitar solos.

The master class clinics weekend will be held as follows:

Friday 1 May: 5.30pm to 8pm (Euro Institute of Music – Hamrun)

Saturday 2 May: 2 pm to 4pm (Euro Institute of Music – Hamrun)

Sunday 5 May: 10am to 11.30am (V5 – Valletta Waterfront)

Price: €45 only!

For more information phone at the Euro Institute of Music on tel. 2122-6555, mobile: 9946-6324 or email: info@marcgalea.com.