

Issue 10 Feb 2025
De La Salle College
Senior School



LibraryLink



The Senior Library Team
Editor: Mr C Saliba

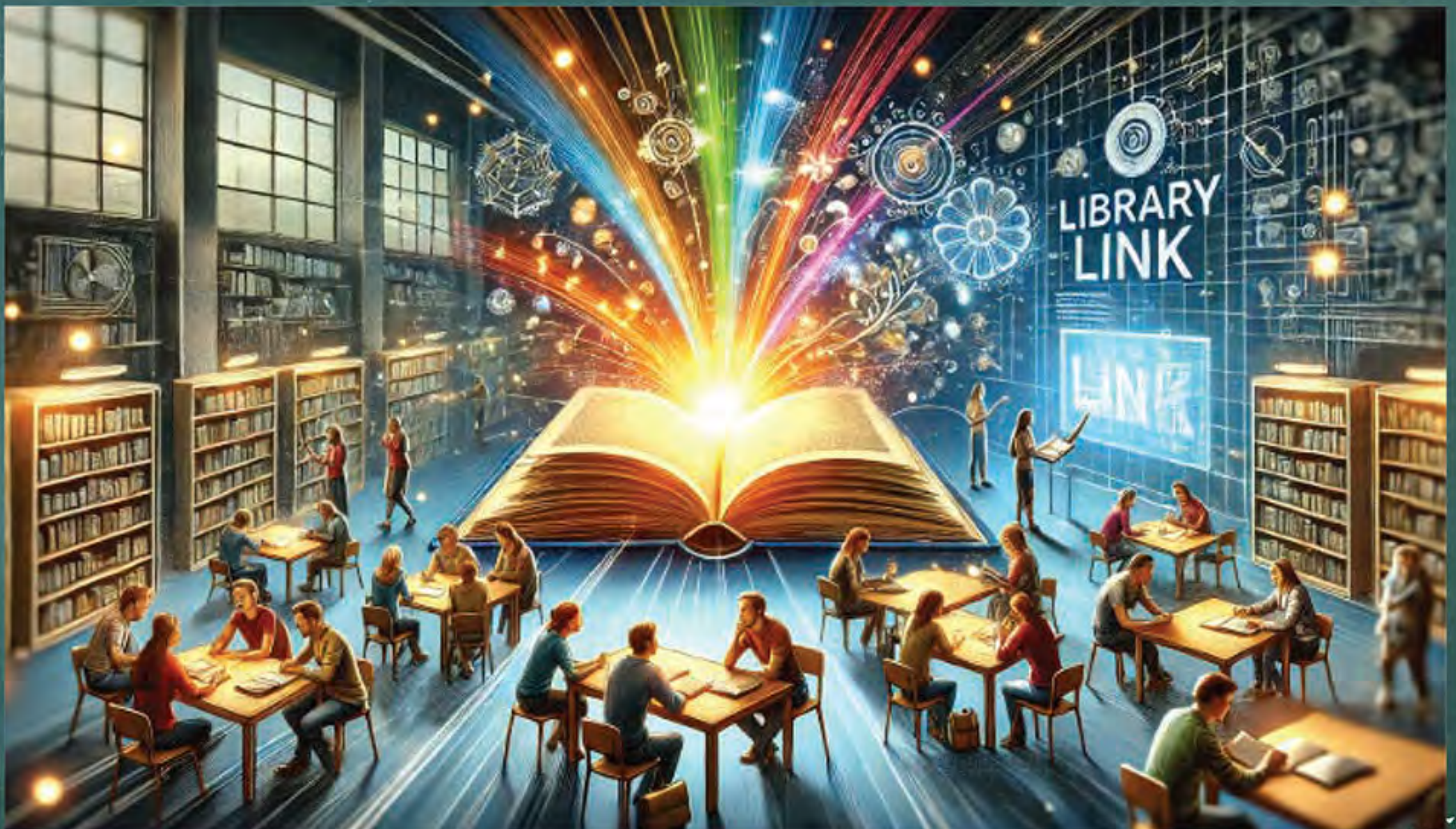
LibraryLink



Discover LibraryLink!

The Use of Library Link

Library Link serves as a vital resource for connecting readers, educators, and students to the world of books, knowledge, and creativity. It provides updates on new arrivals, highlights key literary events, and shares insightful articles to inspire a love for reading. With engaging content and curated recommendations, Library Link helps foster a vibrant reading community.



February in Malta is a vibrant month filled with cultural festivities, historical commemorations, and lively events that showcase the island's rich heritage. Here's a glimpse of what's happening this month:

Malta Eurovision Song Contest 2025

From February 4th to 8th, the nation tunes in to the Malta Eurovision Song Contest, a cherished annual event where local artists compete for the honor of representing Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest. The competition features two semi-finals on February 4th and 6th, culminating in the grand final on February 8th. This event not only highlights Malta's musical talent but also unites communities in celebration of artistic expression.



Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck

On February 10th, Valletta comes alive to commemorate the Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck, honoring Malta's patron saint. This national holiday features processions, religious ceremonies, and communal gatherings, offering a profound insight into Malta's deep-rooted religious traditions and the vibrant spirit of its people.



Malta Carnival 2025

From February 28th to March 4th, the Malta Carnival takes center stage, bringing centuries-old traditions to life with vibrant parades, elaborate costumes, and intricate floats. Valletta serves as the heart of the festivities, though celebrations occur across the islands, including the unique Nadur Carnival in Gozo, known for its spontaneous and darker themes. This period is marked by music, dance, and a palpable sense of joy, making it a highlight of Malta's cultural calendar.



Malta Marathon 2025

Celebrating its 40th edition, the Malta Marathon is scheduled for February 23rd. Runners from around the globe will embark on a scenic route starting in Mdina and concluding in Sliema. The marathon offers participants a unique way to experience Malta's landscapes and historical sites, embodying the island's spirit of endurance and community.



February Reads: Books to Warm Your Winter Evenings

As February brings crisp evenings and the perfect excuse to cosy up, it's time to dive into books that warm the heart and ignite the imagination. Whether you're a fan of timeless classics or looking to discover new favourites, this month offers plenty of inspiration.

For romance enthusiasts, *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen remains a perennial favourite. Its wit, charm, and unforgettable characters make it a perfect companion for Valentine's season.

If you prefer thrilling adventures, consider *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, a magical tale of rivalry and romance set against a beautifully enchanting backdrop.



Non-fiction lovers can find solace in *The Little Book of Hygge* by Meik Wiking, which offers practical tips on embracing the Danish art of creating warmth and happiness in everyday life.

For younger readers, *The Snowy Day* by Ezra Jack Keats is a charming story about the simple joys of a winter's day, perfect for sharing during family reading time.

These February reads promise to transform cold evenings into moments of delight, offering warmth through compelling stories and heartfelt themes.

- CELEBRATING -
LOVE AND LITERATURE
IN THE
LIBRARY

February's Author Spotlight: Celebrating Great Writers

February is a month that honours the birthdays of numerous influential authors whose works have left an indelible mark on literature. Here are some notable writers born this month:



- Langston Hughes (February 1, 1902): A central figure of the Harlem Renaissance, Hughes's poetry and prose vividly portrayed African American life and culture.
- James Joyce (February 2, 1882): An Irish novelist best known for *Ulysses*, Joyce's innovative narrative techniques have profoundly influenced modernist literature.
- Gertrude Stein (February 3, 1874): An avant-garde writer and art collector, Stein's works and Paris salon were pivotal in the development of modern art and literature.
- Charles Dickens (February 7, 1812): Celebrated for classics like *A Tale of Two Cities* and *Great Expectations*, Dickens's storytelling continues to captivate readers worldwide.
- John Grisham (February 8, 1955): Known for his legal thrillers, Grisham's novels, such as *The Firm* and *A Time to Kill*, have achieved both critical and commercial success.
- Alice Walker (February 9, 1944): Author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *The Color Purple*, Walker's work explores themes of race, gender, and identity.
- Toni Morrison (February 18, 1931): A Nobel laureate, Morrison's profound narratives, including *Beloved* and *Song of Solomon*, delve into African American experiences.
- Victor Hugo (February 26, 1802): The French author of monumental works like *Les Misérables* and *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame*, Hugo's legacy endures in literature and beyond.



Celebrating Great Writers

Historical February: Events That Shaped Malta and Beyond

February has been a month of significant historical events, both in Malta and around the world.

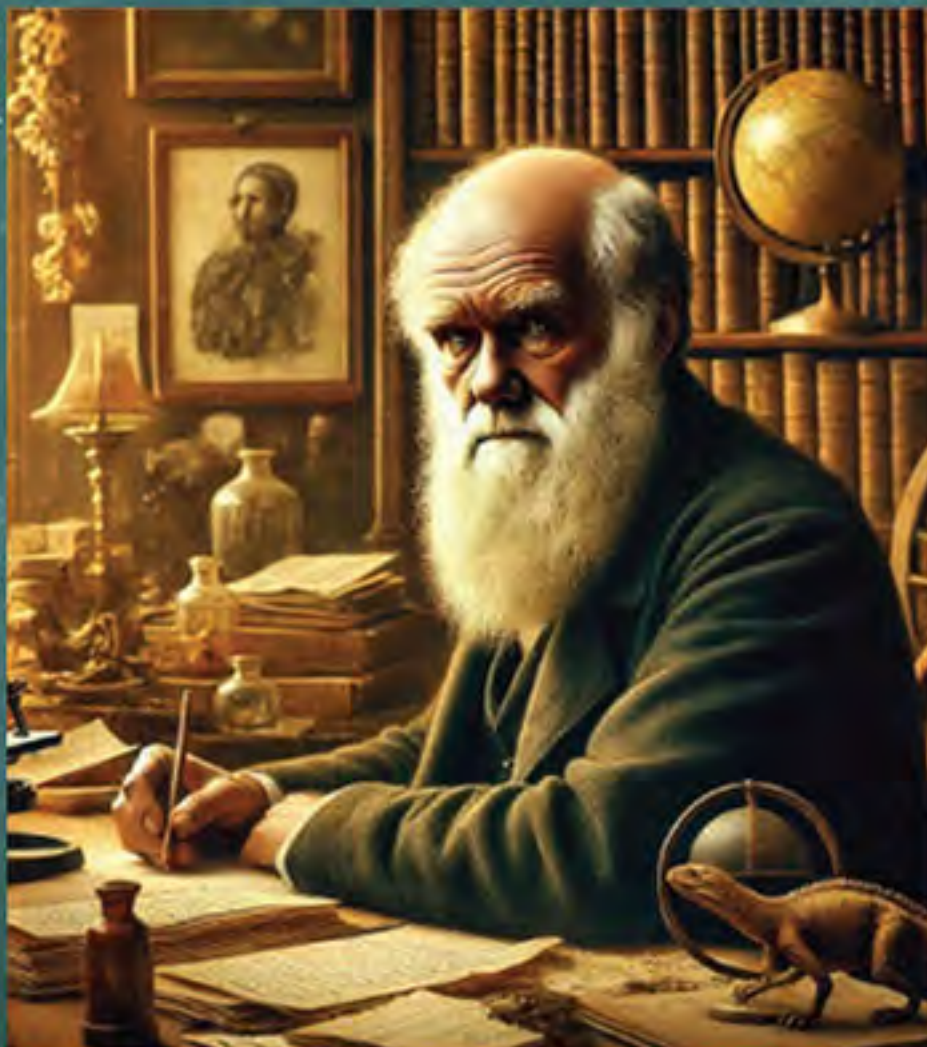
February

Malta's Notable February Events

- **Feast of St. Paul's Shipwreck (February 10):** This national holiday commemorates the shipwreck of St. Paul on Malta, an event that introduced Christianity to the island. Valletta hosts processions and religious services to honour this pivotal moment in Maltese history.
- **Malta Carnival:** Celebrated in February, the Malta Carnival is a centuries-old tradition featuring vibrant parades, elaborate costumes, and festive activities, reflecting the island's rich cultural heritage.

Global Historical Events in February

- **February 12, 1809:** The birth of Charles Darwin, whose theory of evolution revolutionized biological sciences.
- **February 22, 1732:** The birth of George Washington, the first President of the United States, whose leadership was instrumental in the nation's founding.



Charles Darwin



George Washington

Creativity: DIY Valentine Crafts Inspired by Books

Valentine's Day offers a wonderful opportunity to blend the love of literature with creative crafting. Here are some delightful DIY projects that draw inspiration from beloved books, adding a personal touch to your celebrations:

- **Faux Valentine Mini Book Stack:** Transform small wooden blocks into a charming stack of mini books, each painted and labelled with romantic titles or personal messages. This craft not only serves as a decorative piece but also pays homage to your favourite love stories.



- **Book-Inspired Valentine's Day Crafts:** Engage children with crafts that pair with their favourite stories. For instance, create ladybug Valentine's cards inspired by "Hugs & Kisses for The Grouchy Ladybug" by Eric Carle. Such activities foster a love for reading while allowing kids to express their creativity.
- **Rolled Book Page Heart Art:** Repurpose old book pages by rolling them into heart shapes and assembling them into a piece of art. This farmhouse-style decoration adds a rustic and literary charm to your Valentine's Day decor.

Maritime Presentation at the Senior School Library

We had an incredible session today at the senior school library, where students participated in a fascinating Maritime presentation by MaritimeMT. The session included interactive learning about types of vessels and maritime communication.

The students were fully engaged and had so much fun playing two exciting games, where winners received books as prizes! A total of 10 books, both in English and Maltese, were generously donated to our library by MaritimeMT.

MaritimeMT expressed their enthusiasm to join us again for another session and even during our upcoming Careers Day! A huge thank you to MaritimeMT for this memorable and educational experience. We can't wait to welcome them back!





📖 Exploring the Art of Chinese Characters ✨

We had the pleasure of hosting Mr. Stephen Cachia, who conducted two engaging sessions on the fascinating world of Chinese characters. 🎨✍️

The sessions combined learning with hands-on practice, where students explored the structure and meaning behind various strokes, such as "The Fisherman" and "The Archer." ✍️ They also had the opportunity to try their hand at calligraphy, making the experience both educational and interactive. 🎨

A special thanks to Mr. Cachia for his time and effort in delivering these sessions and to the students for their active participation. These workshops were a great example of how the library can bring learning and culture together. 🌍📖





新年快乐
2025

Kick-off Session with a Pro

We had a very good session in the library with **Mr Joseph Farrugia**, a UEFA A Coach! He talked about football and coaching, sharing some great tips on teamwork, leadership, and staying dedicated.

The students loved hearing his stories and advice, and the big screen made it even more exciting to follow his journey as a coach.

A big thank you to Mr Farrugia for inspiring everyone and showing us what it takes to succeed in football!







During **PSCD lessons**, our students had the opportunity to participate in the 'It's My Choice' workshops, a programme designed to empower young people to make informed and responsible decisions.

- ◆ Year 9: The Key to Youth Opportunities: exploring how to access and manage youth opportunities effectively.
- ◆ Year 10: My Interests and Hobbies: reflecting on the link between personal interests, hobbies and skills developed through formal and non-formal activities.
- ◆ Year 11: My Opinion, My Vote: understanding the importance of voting as a personal decision and the essence of democratic participation.

A heartfelt thanks to the youth workers from Agenzija Žghazagh for delivering these meaningful sessions! Together, we're helping students build skills and confidence to shape their journey through life's decisions.

Remember: The choices you make today shape your future!



Cristiano Ronaldo

by Yan Fenech 2 White

Ronaldo's full name is Cristiano Ronald Dos Santos Aveiro and he was born in Funchal, Portugal. He was very poor and his town was very poor too. He was born on February 5th 1985 and he's 40 years old. He's a very dedicated football player and has a great character. He is very kind hearted. He played for Sporting Lisbon, Manchester United, Real Madrid, Juventus and Al Nassr and has scored around 915 goals. Over the past 20 years he has won a lot of trophies.

I really like him because he is very kind, a very good player and lots more. He lives with his wife, mom and kids. His dad died when he was young. He got the news while he was in a World Cup final in 2005. He got very emotional. He also did lots of interviews. I find him very inspirational and that's why I play football now. I have been playing football since I was 5.



7

Sustainable Agriculture

Q&A Session with Dr Baron



5th February at 12:40 PM
Senior School Library

LET'S REDUCE PLASTIC WASTE

Try to use cloth bags rather than plastic bags to help maintain the environment. By reducing the use of plastics, we can help to reduce waste.

IMPORTANT



THINGS WE CAN DO



Use reusable bottles or cups for beverages on the go.



Buy more bulk food and fewer packaged products



Pay attention and put your plastic waste in the correct recycling container.

MASSACRE IN MDINA

It is the year 1798. A French army under the direction of the great general Napoleon Bonaparte has invaded Malta and forced the Order of the Knights of St John to surrender our islands to the French Republic. Malta is now governed by a commission of government headed by the Lawyer D'Angely and General Vaubois. A new era is starting for our island.



Onwards to Malta
and then to Egypt!



During his 7 day stay in , Napoleon issued a number of orders to reform the government of Malta. The population was divided - there were those who have welcomed the French with open arms and there were those who dreaded the new government.

Here are some reforms ordered by Napoleon:

- The Maltese will elect their own representatives to rule the island.
- Slavery is abolished. All slaves will be sent back to the country they came from.
- A government school will be set up in each town and village.
- A college for the study of scientific subjects will be set up.
- 60 students will be sent to France to complete their education.
- Everybody will be equal under the law.
- Nobles, princes and priests will have the same rights as every citizen of Malta.
- The Church court of the inquisition is abolished.
- Everyone is free to practise the religion he prefers.
- Everyone is free to write and print his opinions.

Finally a fresh air of reform and liberty is blowing on our island. We are free! The knights have lorded over us for too long.

I don't trust the godless French! Too many changes at one go!



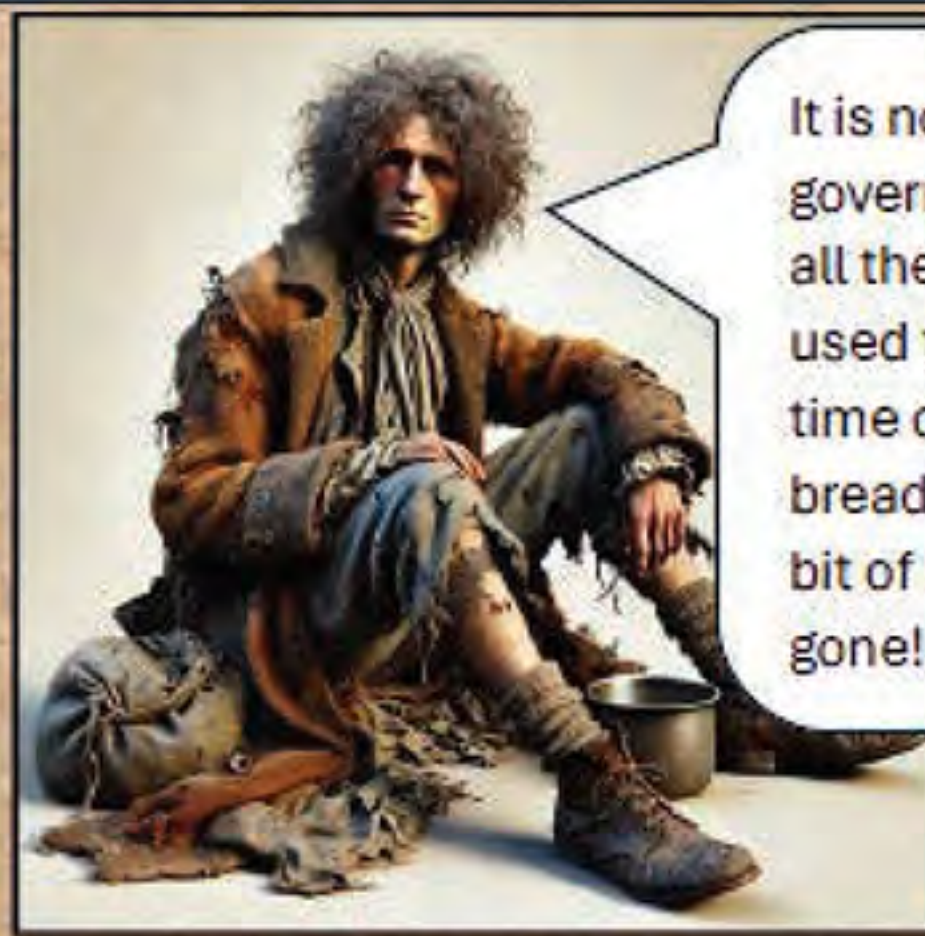
It seemed like a new dawn for our island, but soon, many different categories of people started feeling aggrieved and affronted by the French government and its way of doing things. Many different categories of the population had a gripe and an axe to grind.



I have to keep French soldiers in my townhouse! I have to pay for their food, tobacco and wine! They have made a horrible mess of my best rooms! What is worse is that I have lost a lot of money. I have not been compensated for the damage done during the invasion; I have had to free our slaves – I had spent good money to buy them at the market and I am still waiting for the return of the money which I had lent to Grandmaster Hompesch....now Hompesch is gone I can kiss my money goodbye!

The noblemen and the well-to-do ...

Trade with Sicily is ruined. I still have to be paid for the damage which the French troops have caused during the invasion. French soldiers have made it a habit to enter my shop and take things for free. 'It's for the army!' they say – and walk away with it!



It is not fair! The French government has stopped all the charities which used to be given during the time of the Knights. Free bread, free soup, that little bit of money given out....all gone! I'm hungry!

The miserable poor...

We have to give up part of the harvest to the French government to feed the soldiers and we are not paid for it!



The businessmen...

The fields rented out to my family by the government of the Knights of St John was valid for 150 years, now they have reduced it to 100. Soon the land will be taken away from me!



Workmen and farmers ...

The price of bread has gone up again. Dun Salv, the parish priest has told us that it is the fault of the French and that Napoleon is the son of the devil!

My husband is a soldier. He had to leave with the French army to fight in Egypt – they promised us that we would be given his wages, but it has been two months already and we haven't received anything yet. I don't know if he's alive or dead!

Conditions here are horrible. I hope that they are sending the money to my wife as I am not getting any here!



Houswives ...



Soldiers and Sailors ...

Most of these problems arose from the fact that the French government in Malta did not have a solid financial base. Before the arrival of the French, the economic situation was already problematic and the situation became worse in the turmoil and trouble of an invasion, war and reforms. General Vaubois, the military commander and d'Angely, the civilian administrator needed to find ways to raise money fast!

Citizen d'Angely, soon we will not have any money to pay our own soldiers. We must do something!

My dear Vaubois, money does not grow on trees. Wait ... I have an idea!



One of the orders issued by Napoleon dealt with the religious orders. All brothers were ordered to gather in one of their convents/ monasteries in Malta. The extra, empty houses and churches had to be closed and used as schools or hospitals.

The French government decided that all the precious objects contained in these churches which had been closed would be sold at auction to raise money for the government.



I get a commission on the sales ...
the more I sell, the better my
commission

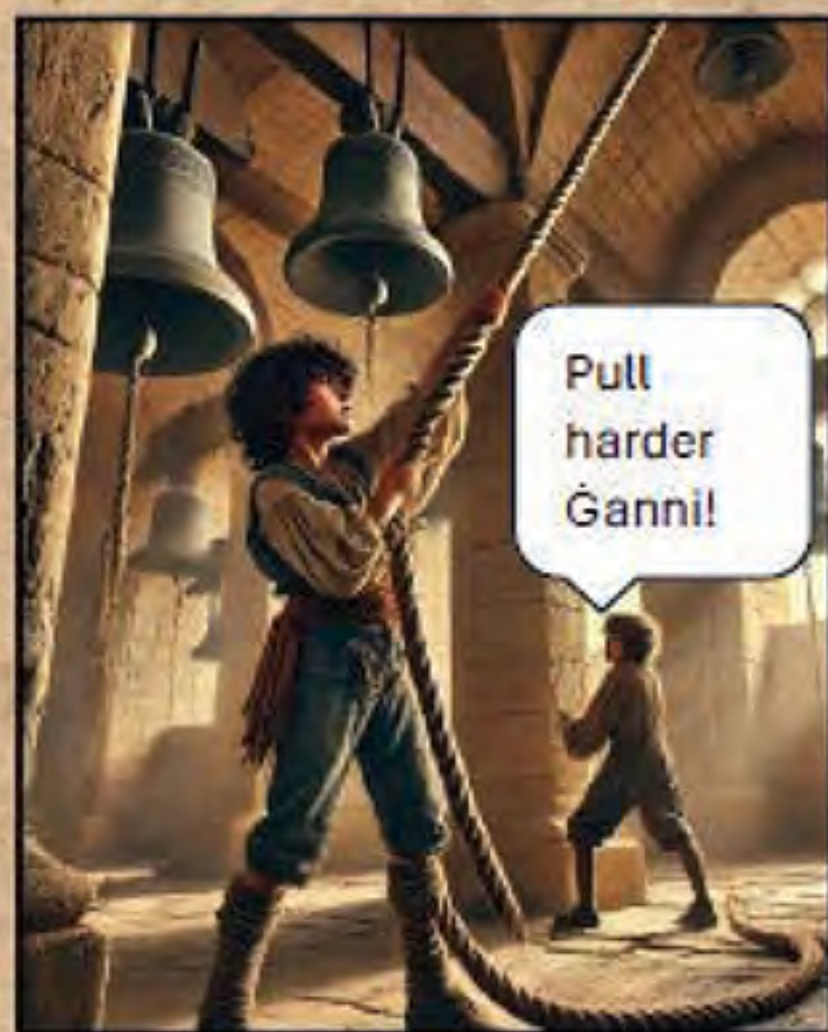
On taking over Malta, the French had agreed to respect the church and its property. By selling off these objects, the French were falling short of this promise. The Maltese were furious!

On Sunday 2nd September 1798, a team of auctioneers made its way to the Church of ta' Ġiezu in Rabat.

The auctioneers were met by a hostile crowd and were chased out of the church. As soon as they left, a group of men took out the valuable objects from the church of ta' Ġiezu and took them to a safe place. In the meantime, the auctioneers entered Mdina and made for the church of our Lady of Mount Carmel to start another sale there.



Quickly, let's hide this
silverware before the
rascals return!



The auctioneer and his assistant were about to start selling off the damask of the church of Mount Carmel when another angry crowd gathered inside and outside the church. Suddenly church bells started ringing together. The sound of the bells brought in a larger crowd and the auctioneers thought better about continuing the sale. They picked up their books and scampered out of the church. The crowd pelted them with stones as they ran out of Mdina. They were lucky to get away with their lives. The church bells continued ringing and more and more villagers from the surrounding towns of Żebbuġ and Siġġiewi rushed to Rabat.

The French commander at Mdina, Captain Lazare Masson, escorted by another officer and a sergeant walked to Rabat to check out the situation. Masson took out his sword and started waving it around to intimidate the people. In the narrow, winding streets of Rabat, Masson was quickly surrounded by an angry mob. Someone threw a stone which hit the captain on the head. Masson was furious. He started shouting insults at the crowd. That was his undoing. The crowd turned on him and the three French soldiers had to flee for their lives.

Which one of you
Maltese pigs threw
the stone?!?



After him lads!
We'll show him
who's the pig!



Masson was chased towards the church of ta' Giezu. He ran inside the house belonging to Notary Bezzina for shelter and shut the door behind him. The crowd gathered around the house and tried to force its way in. Notary Bezzina convinced Masson to give up and opened the door. A group of men rushed into the house and even though Masson tried to surrender, the crowd could not be convinced to spare him. Captain Masson was beaten to death. His corpse was carried upstairs and thrown into the street from the balcony where the angry throng kept pounding it to a pulp with sticks, kicks and stones.



General, the peasants
in the countryside are
up in arms!



We must prepare for
the worst. Prepare to
lock up the gates of
the cities, turn out the
guards. We must get
on high alert!

The other officer who had accompanied Masson was captured and killed too but the sergeant managed to make it to the safety of Mdina. The gates of the old city were locked and a message was sent to General Vaubois in Valletta to warn him of the morning's events.

The Maltese tried to force their way into the city, but the first attempt failed. The second attempt was more organized. A feint attack was mounted on the main gate to distract the French while a small group of armed men managed to enter the city through a secret doorway located in the walls below the cathedral. Soon the French soldiers found themselves caught between the fire of the men from outside and inside the city.



The French decided to surrender but just as they were handing the keys of the city to the Maltese, some French soldiers who were hidden on the wall fired their muskets and killed and wounded several Maltese. The Maltese were furious and firing started again.

The remaining French soldiers barricaded themselves inside the Magistral Palace by the main gate of the city (site of the present day Natural History Museum) and prepared for a last stand. The Maltese assaulted the palace and killed every French soldier they found inside. Around 65 Frenchmen were killed in all. Only Captain Masson's widow was spared as she was pregnant!



The corpses of the French soldiers were carried to Mtarfa where they were burned. It was the start of a long terrible war which finally saw the surrender of the French forces in Malta, exactly two years later in September 1800!



Thank you!

If you have any questions or would like to submit your own article, feel free to reach out to us via the email below.

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