

Valletta celebrates its foundation day

Valletta was alive to the sound of music and musketry this morning as it celebrated the anniversary of its founding - just days before work starts on a project that will radically change its entrance.

Grand Master Jean de Valette laid the foundation stone of the city which bears his name on March 28, 1566 at what became Our lady of Victories church, recalling the victory over the Turks in the Great Siege a few months previously.

Flowers were laid at the spot this morning by a delegation led by the Mayor of Valletta.

The festivities started with a march down part of Republic Street and up Merchants' Street by the Wallace Pipes and Drums.

Several stands related to history and handicrafts were put up in Great Siege Square and St George's Square.

A colourful historical re-enactment of a parade of the time of the knights - In Guardia - was staged at St George's Square.

Mass was held at Our Lady of Victories Church after the laying of flowers.

During a reception, Carnival organiser Paul Curmi was presented the award *Gieh il-Belt*.

Comments

Kevin Vella(1 week, 5 days ago) 

Mr Joe Fenech, from what I can read in your reply I can confirm that you are a man with out culture, and I can say that I will not play "Oh he's a Jolly Good Fellow" for you because you are not.

Kevin Vella(1 week, 6 days ago) 


Dear Mr Mark Bishop, I am Kevin Vella the Pipe Major of the Wallace Pipes & Drums, for your information we (the pipe Band you are viewing on this video) are a professional Pipe Band who performed in a lot of activities localy such as each Malta Military Tattoo and also abroad, and not Scout Group. Please be informed before submitting any statments.

c.c.carbonaro(2 weeks ago) 


why are such celebrations held in the morning? People in the morning enter to fulfill his needs.why not in evening to celebrate Foundation Day? I guess if La Valette awakes from his resting place , he turns his army against those who ruined his City.

colin stanley(2 weeks ago) 


@ Mr. Mauro Camilleri. I was just going to ask that question, Is there a monument to La. Valette, or as you have said, he is not that important, if there isn't, maybe they should place one at city gate

J Farrugia(2 weeks ago) 

nihu l-okkazjoni biex nifrah lil Pawlu Curmi ghall-unur li inghata mill-Kunsill Lokali tal-Belt Valletta - Gieh il-Belt Valletta. Jixraqlu u ghalhekk nifrah mieghu u mal-familja tieghu ghal dan l-unur . Pawlu Curmi fl-eta' venerabbli tieghu jixraqlu ferm kull unur, ghax bit-talenti li tah Alla irnexxielu jaghmel isem ghalih. prosit mill-gdid Pawlu Curmi.


Mauro Camilleri(2 weeks ago) 

Kif ma poggewx il-fjuri fuq il-monument ta' La Vallette??? Eh bil-haqq!!! M'hemmx ghalfejn ikollna monument tal-fundatur tal-Belt Kapitali!! Il-progett ta' Renzo Piano hafna isbah hux??? Mhux hekk?? Prosit tad-DIZASTRU le se toholqu ghalina l-Beltin u ghall-kumplament tal-Maltin! L-ewwel ic-CVA u issa dan il-progett, jekk nistghu nsejhulu progett! U dan bi flusi u flusek! Demokrazija fl-aqwa taghha!

Victor Laiviera(2 weeks ago) 


They should have placed the flowers on the Opera House ruins - as a memorial to the people's hopes which seem to have died.

Perhaps not forever - I'm sure we will have democratic governments again some time in the future

victor baldacchino(2 weeks ago) 

@ eric gahn.


biex nigbidlek l-attenzjoni fuq il kruha ta bieb il- belt.II- blokk flats mal fortifikazzjoni, barra minn hekk l'anqas il funtana tat tritoni ma hallewtuha kif suppost ghax kontu tarmawha bhala palk u kissirtuha. Ma nafx kif ghandkom wicc tmaqqudu. ibkuiz- zmien ta meta kontu fil- gvern ghax ghadkom lura biex terghu tarawh.

Mark Bishop(2 weeks ago) 

Nice. But what do the Scots have to do with Valletta? Couldn't they have dressed up like traditional Maltese folk? The bagpipe would fit in as a substitute for "iz-zaqq" giving it a bit of Maltese flavour...

Joe Fenech(1 week, 6 days ago)


NOTHING!!! Neither iz-zaqq in that respect! But it's just a la mode - we have Scottish bagpipes in festas, weddings etc!! I saw a couple of pipers playing 'Oh he's a Jolly Good Fellow ' on bagpipes which made me laugh my head off!!

Eric Gahn(2 weeks ago) 

@ Joe Vella:

Exactly which part of my post says that I think the current gate is beautiful?


I keep wondering why you and some folk are happy with (our) public money being squandered on a half barked idea and a parliament building we do not need instead of taking the time to do something properly. But you are happy because GonziPN proposed it. As long as it is not the 'Socialists'. Unfortunately it is this sectarian belief keeps the country's sheep malleable.

Rocco Cauchi(2 weeks ago) 


444 years will fade into insignificance against the scores of years of hot debate to come in the wake of 70 odd years of initial haggling since WWII. This time the arguments will be whether to build further on the theatre ruins or expand sideways across the square; whether to retain Parliament building for its purpose, or for some other end, or demolish it altogether; how to build a new road into Valletta ensconced within a regenerated historical gate; and a multitude other ideas which will crop up as the debate goes on.

The truth is that Valletta is not such big territory and if the ultimate aim is to do away with cars within the city it would certainly be of no difficulty for government to fix all streets with movable pathways, mostly along its steep ascents. The cost would definitely not be as much as that for the present project.

Besides, what about Palace Square for a new Parliament building? The whole Main Guard block was requisitioned in 1983 and the reason was developing the place into a kind of 10 Downing Street. What about rethinking along these lines, setting Castille free for Parliament?


Lawrence Fenech(2 weeks ago) 

And its destruction.

Joe Vella(2 weeks ago) 

@ Eric Gann

The ruin of Valletta started with the masterpiece across from Freedom Square that your beloved Socialists Built.

Robert Caruana(2 weeks ago) 

Let's celebrate also the START of works which will deliver PIANO's MASTERPIECE for all to enjoy. Well done GONZI let's move further to DELIVER while others just TALK and TALK and TALK.....That is what the country needsCONCRETE DELIVERABLES not endless arguments.

Jesmond Micallef(2 weeks ago) 

Valletta had other entrances, not just this one. Why the all fuss about this one ? There are other massively disfigured non original sites in Valletta, too. Some buildings where demloished on purpose, others where destroyed by falling weaponry. Is there any documented historical evidence of public protests whether from the Intelligentia or non intelligentia social groupings, at those various times. ?

I don't think that the new Piano designed entrance will ruin Valletta at all.

Joseph Brincat(2 weeks ago) 


It's nice celebrating the anniversary of the founding of Valletta.

But at least we should have tried to find out how the knights had built its first entrance.

No one seems to know how it was except perhaps Renzo Piano!!!!

M.Portelli(2 weeks ago)

Maybe you should do some research of yourself to realise that the Knight's original gate was, as a defensive gate should be, extremely small; small enough to only allow one man at a time to enter, so small that the knight's themselves actually tore it down to widen it up (I think it was in Grandmaster's Iscaris' reign). But then again maybe you would like to have that sort of gate installed....

Eric Gahn(2 weeks ago) 

How ironic. Celebrating Foundation Day a few days before its ruin starts.
