

il-Huttafa

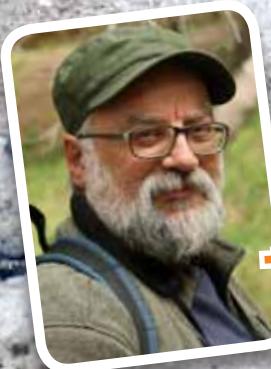
Numru **160**

Settembru - Ottubru 2020



Fenek Selvagg

€2 għal min mhux membru



Hibieb Huttaf...

F'dawn l-aħħar ġimħat kellna aħbar sabiħa u aħbar kerha fuq in-natura.

L-aħbar sabiħa kienet li komplex faqqsu l-bejtiet tal-fkieren tal-baħar, u salvaw iktar minn 300 fkejruna (ara paġna 3). Din l-aħbar turi kemm għad hawn nies li jridu jgħinu lin-natura.

L-aħbar kerha kienet li biċċtejn art enorġi spiċċaw f'idejn il-kaċċaturi u n-nassaba (ara paġna 16). Din l-aħbar turi kemm għad hawn nies li ma jimpurtahomx min-natura. Għax kieku

L-istaġuni tal-qtil

| | |
|-----------|----------------------|
| Jannar | kaċċa ghall-ghasafar |
| Frar | |
| Marzu | |
| April | kaċċa għas-summien |
| Mejju | |
| Ġunju | |
| Lulju | kaċċa ghall-fenek |
| Awwissu | |
| Settembru | |
| Ottubru | kaċċa ghall-ghasafar |
| Novembru | |
| Dicembru | |

jimpurtak min-natura ma tagħtix biċċa art kbira lil nies li joqtlu l-għasafar għall-gost.

Jekk thobb in-natura, lil dawn in-nies għassishom aħjar, mhux tagħtihom art kbira fejn ħadd ma jithalla jara x'qed jagħmlu.

Jekk trid tgħin lin-natura, l-imsaġar kabbarhom, ikkurahom u ndukrahom, mhux tafdahom f'idejn min jeqred in-natura!

Il-Miżieb u L-Aħrax huma żewġ imsaġar kbar fl-inħawi tal-Mellieħha. Kienu thawlu mill-gvern fis-snin Hamsin (1950s) u Sittin (1960s) u anke l-BirdLife kienet tgħin fit-tħawwili. Meta s-siġar kibru bdew jintużaw mill-kaċċaturi biex jisparaw fihom.

Matul dawn l-aħħar 15-il sena l-BirdLife issorveljet il-Miżieb u L-Aħrax, u kull sena rat għexierien ta' għasafar protetti jingqatlu, u rrappurtat lill-pulizija ħafna kaċċaturi li nqabdu jiksru l-liġi.

Issa l-BirdLife mhux ħa tkun tista' iktar tgħasses f'dawn il-postijiet, għax waqt li jkunu għall-kaċċa (ghal disa' xħur fis-sena) il-kaċċaturi għandhom il-poter ikeċċuna. U ħa jkeċċu lil-kulħadd, anke lilek u lill-familja tiegħek.

Pass iehor lura fil-harsien tal-ambjent!

Victor
Victor Falzon
L-Editor



Fenek Selvaġġ
Wild Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Il-fenek selvaġġ huwa l-ikbar mammiferu tal-art li għandna f'Malta. Aktarxi li mhux indiġenu imma ġabuñ in-nies fi żmien il-qedem, forsi fi żmien ir-Rumani! Il-fenek selvaġġ fit narawh għax binhar joqgħod mistohbi fil-hofra, u johroġ jirghaż fil-ghajnejha jew qabel jisbaħ, ħalli ħadd ma jarah. Minn Ĝunju sa Dicembru jista' jinqatel mill-kaċċaturi. Miskin!

7 Ottubru 2020

Frieh tal-fekruna komuni herġin mit-tieni bejta fir-ramla tal-Għadira.



F'din il-ħargħa...

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Mill-editur | 2 |
| Aħbarijiet | 3 |
| GNien għan-Natura | 4-5 |
| L-Ğargħar | 6 |
| Fjuri tal-Harifa | 7 |
| Il-Merill | 8-9 |
| Fried-egg Jellyfish | 10 |
| Art page | 11 |
| Iż-Żanżarell tat-Tikek | 12-13 |
| Amy's Diary | 14 |
| Showing Respect | 15 |
| Down at Salina | 15 |
| Homes for the Stormies | 15 |
| Msaġar Ċimiteri | 16 |

Wrote for this issue...

Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Abbie Ferrar, Angelique Lofaro (NTM), Marie Vella (BOV)

club

Klabb Huttaf is the junior section (-18yrs) of BirdLife Malta. Members can attend many activities, including walks, visits to nature reserves, boat trips and environmental work. Members received by post the bi-monthly magazine *Il-Huttafa*. Families too can become members, and will then also receive the quarterly adult members' magazine *Bird's Eye View*. Subscription is €10 per annum for Klabb Huttaf and €29 for Family.

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300 jaqdfu!



Inkredibbli! Das-sajf kellna fir-ramliet tagħna mhux inqas minn sitt bejtiet tal-fekruna tal-baħar. Minn dawn faqqsu 336 bajda, li minnhom iktar minn 300 fkejruna ġrew lejn il-baħar.

Dari l-fekruna komuni kienet tbejjjet regolari fir-ramliet tagħna imma f'dawn l-aħħar mitt sena rari baqgħet tagħmel dan għax żied ħafna žvilupp fix-xtut.

Però f'dawn l-aħħar 10 snin kellna waħdiet li bejtu b'suċċess (ara l-aħħar Il-Huttafa). Dis-sena kienet rekord, b'sitt bejtiet (li nafu bihom) f'erba' ramliet differenti: ir-Ramla l-Ħamra (Għawdex), ir-Ramla tal-Mixquqa (Golden Bay), ir-Ramla tal-Ġhadira (Mellieħha Bay) u l-Fajtata (San Tumas, Marsaskala). Hawn hi l-lista tas-sitt bejtiet ... u ta' x'hareġ minnhom!

| xatt | faqqsu | data |
|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Ir-Ramla 1 | 84 (minn 105) | 2 Awwissu |
| Il-Mixquqa | 76 (minn 95) | 24 Awwissu |
| Il-Fajtata | 31 (minn 80)* | 4 Settembru |
| Ir-Ramla 2 | 58 (minn 102) | 13 Settembru |
| L-Ġadira 1 | 17 (minn 83) | 22–25 Settembru |
| L-Ġadira 2 | 70 (minn 90) | 7–9 Ottubru |

*B'xorti hażina din il-bejta hadd ma nduna biha minn qabel. Il-frieh li faqqsu minnha mietu kollha ghax ma setghux johorgu mir-ramel peress li tballat wisq min-nies li għaddew minn fuqu.



Vicent Falzon



Fkejruna ħierġa friska mill-bejta!

Is-suċċess tal-fkieren ma kienx ikun mingħajr l-għajnejn ta' iktar minn 300 voluntiera. Ir-ramliet Maltin jidherew nies fis-sajf u mingħajr ħarsien il-bejtiet kienu jfallu, kif ġara bil-bejta tal-Fajtata. Binhar u bil-lejl gruppi ta' voluntiera indukraw il-bejtiet biex ħadd ma jirfes, iħaffer jew ibaqħbas madwarhom. Kienu hemm ukoll biex meta jitla' l-baħar (ara ritratt) iħaffru trinek u jibnu munzelli ramel biex il-bejtiet ma jegħrqu. U kienu hemm ukoll ħalli meta l-bajd ifaqqas ikunu bil-lest biex jgħinu l-frieh isibu l-baħar. Prosit lil Nature Trust li dahlet għal din il-biċċa xogħol, u b'mod speċjali lil Angelique Lofaro li kkordinat kollox.



Għadira Nest 2

F'Malta jidheru tliet speċi ta' fkieren tal-baħar. L-iktar waħda li tidher hija l-fekruna komuni (*Caretta caretta*), bl-Ingliz loggerhead turtle. Għal ħafna snin is-sajjiġeda kienu jaqbdu l-fkieren u jbigħuhom għall-broku jew għall-qoxra. Fl-1992 l-fkieren tal-baħar saru mħarsin bil-liġi u għalhekk ma setgħux jinqabdu iktar. Dawn il-fkieren jgħixu ħajjithom kollha fil-baħar. Fi żmien il-bejta, però, in-nisa jitilgħu fuq ramla bil-lejl, iħaffru ħofra fir-ramel, ibidu ħafna bajd, jgħattu kollox u jerġgħu lura fil-baħar. Wara xi xahrejn, jekk ikunu b'xortihom, il-frieh ifaqqsu u jiġi lejn il-baħar.

Mark Zammit Cordina

Ġnien għan-Natura

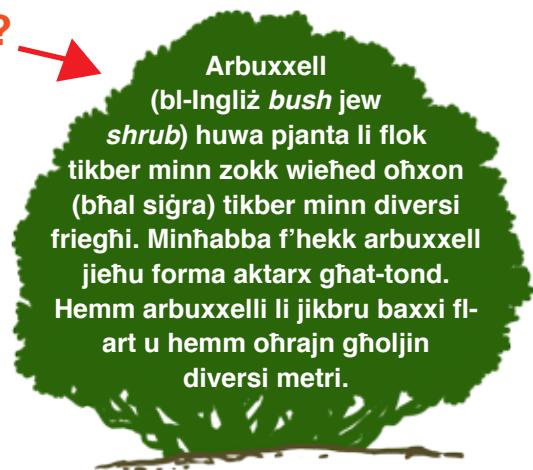
Kitba Desirée Falzon
Tpingija Victor Falzon

Kif tiġbed in-natura lejn il-ġnien tiegħek

L-Arbuxxelli

X'inhu arbuxxell?

Fost il-pjanti li jikbru fil-kampanja Maltija għandna ħafna arbuxxelli. Fil-fatt iktar għandna arbuxxelli minn siġar. Minħabba li għandna ħamrija baxxa u blat fil-wiċċi is-siġar ma jirnexx il-homx jgħixu għax l-għeruq tagħhom iridu l-fond. Arbuxxell qisu siġra żgħira u folta u l-għeruq iserrpu bejn xquq fil-blat għax irqaq u iqasar minn tas-siġar. Ġnien bl-arbuxxelli indiġeni mhux biss m'għandux bżonn ħafna kura, imma jgħibek varjetà ta' ħajja.

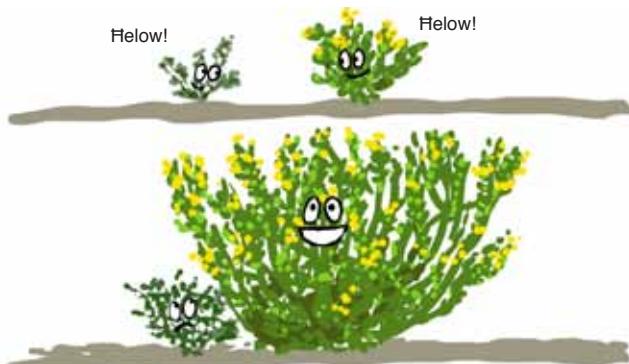


X'inħawwel?

Agħżel postijiet bix-xemx. Issa ftakar li biex tiġbed il-ħajja lejn il-ġnien tiegħek trid l-insetti, u ħafna insetti jfittu l-fond. Għalhekk agħżel arbuxxelli li jiftu l-fond fi staġuni

differenti ħalli dejjem ikkolok x'toffri lill-insetti – parti li jkollok ġardina dejjem imżejna bil-ġmiel tal-fjuri.

Agħżel arbuxxelli li joqgħodu fl-ispażju li għandek. Ara kemm jikbru (lista p.5) u ppjana b'mod li ma jgħattu ix-xemx lil xulxin. Hażżeż pjan fuq karta u kkalkula kif se jidhru u kemm l-ispażju li għandek ha jħallik tagħmel arbuxxelli.



Ftakar li l-arbuxxelli jikbru, u ma jikbrux bl-istess rata. Perezempju thawwilx xorbett ħdejn sagħtar għax ix-xorbett jikber malajr u jispiċċa jgħatti lis-sagħtar.

pjan fuq karta u kkalkula kif se jidhru u kemm l-ispażju li għandek ha jħallik tagħmel arbuxxelli. Is-sabiħ tal-arbuxxelli huwa wkoll li l-aħdar tagħhom kollha jvarja xi ffit. Flimkien mad-daqṣijiet differenti dawn il-pjanti jagħmlulek il-ġnien interessanti.

X'ħajja jiġbdu?

Għal ħafna animali l-arbuxxell huwa supermarket. Fi żmien il-fjuri jkollok varjetà ta' insetti skont id-daqs tal-fjura. Xi hanfus u xagħat jieklu l-weraq. Din mhix problema sakemm ikun hemm numru żgħir. Dejjem ikkontrolla bl-idejn, tużax pestiċċidi.

Diversi brimb bħall-brimb tal-fjuri (crab spiders) jikkampjaw qalb il-weraq ħalli jaqbdu l-insetti, oħrajn jinsġu l-għanqbut bejn il-friegħi għal dubbien, baħrijet u li jiġi. Diversi żnażan iħfu l-weraq u l-fjuri tal-arbuxxelli jfittu dud u xgħat biex jitimgħu 'l uliedhom. Bil-



lejl taf tisma' l-hoss ħelu ta' xi **grilli** jkantaw u jsaffru minn qalb il-weraq.

Il-katina tal-ikel tingħalaq bl-għasafar. Il-**bufula sewda** hija tipika tal-ġonna u faċli taraha tfitteżx l-insejti qalb il-weraq tal-arbuxxell. Fix-xhur il-friski **I-vjolin tax-xitwa** jixxala jteftef u jgħarrex qalb il-weraq ta' arbuxxelli folti għal insejti żgħar.

Jekk għandek arbuxxell imdaqqas f'rakna kwieta, hemm čans tajjeb li l-bufula sewda anke tbejjitlek fi.

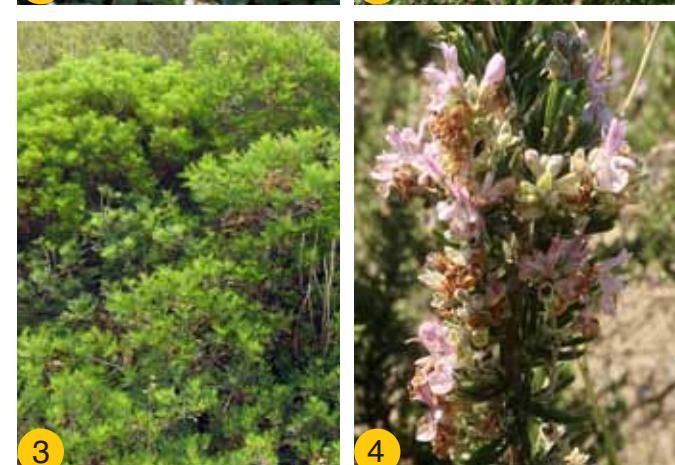
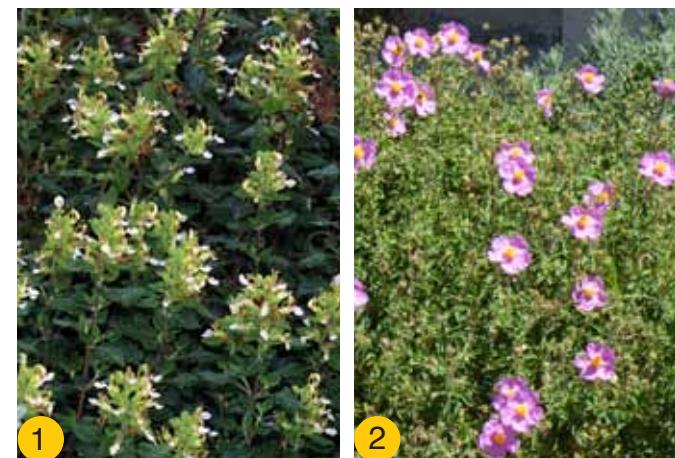
Minn fejn ingibhom?

Hafna drabi m'intix se ssib arbuxxelli Maltin fil-ħwienet tal-ġonna. Ma jimpurtax, din sfida sabiħa għal min iħobb in-natura tagħna.

L-aħjar mod biex tkattar huwa li tiġibor iż-żerriegħha u tesperimenta bl-aħjar żmien biex tiżraġgħhom, jew fil-ħarifa jew fir-rebbiegħha. Iż-żerriegħha tkun lesta minn xi ġimaginej sa xahar wara li jkun hemm il-fjuri. Żomm nota ta' x'għamilt ħalli titgħallek mill-esperjenza tiegħek stess u taqsam dak li tgħallimt ma' ħbieb li wkoll qed jippruvaw.



Żur il-paġna **Dinja Waħda** fuq **Facebook** għal aktar tagħrif u pariri dwar ġbir ta' żerriegħha għall-arbuxxelli li semmejnejna hawn.



| isem | name | bil-fjuri | jogħlew |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Borgħom | Yellow Germander | rebbiegħha sa xi 75cm |
| 2 | Čistu Roža | Hoary Rock-rose | Marzu sa April sa xi 60cm |
| 3 | Deru | Lentisk | Frar sa Marzu sa xi 4m |
| 4 | Klin | Rosemary | is-sena kollha sa xi 75cm |
| 5 | Salvja tal-Madonna | Great Sage | Marzu sa April sa xi 50cm |
| 6 | Sagħtar | Mediterranean Thyme | Mejju sa Lulju sa xi 40cm |
| 7 | Sigħra tal-ħarir | Wolfbane | Novembru sa April sa xi 180cm |
| 8 | Spika* | Lavender | rebbiegħha, sajf u ħarifa sa xi 75cm |
| 9 | Tengħud tax-Xagħri | Maltese Spurge | Frar sa Mejju sa xi 150cm |
| 10 | Te Sqalli | White Hedge-nettle | Diċembru sa Ġunju sa xi 75cm |
| 11 | Widnet il-Baħar | Maltese Rock-centaury | Mejju sa Lulju sa xi 50cm |
| 12 | Xorbett | Golden Samphire | Settembru sa Novembru sa xi 75cm |
| 13 | Żebbuġija | Olive-leaved Germander | Diċembru sa Ġunju sa xi 150cm |

*Mhix indiġena għal Malta imma għall-Mediterran



SANDARAC GUM TREE

WE ARE SO LUCKY! Lucky that in Malta we share our lives with so many different types of plants and animals, some of which have been crowned as National Species. In this issue we are featuring the Sandarac Gum Tree (*Tetraclinis articulata*), the National Tree, popularly known as *I-ghargħar*.



*L.N. 49 of 1993

**S.L. 549.120

LOOK OUT FOR THE MALTESE FRESH WATER CRAB IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

Fjuri tal-ħarifa



Sprag Xewwieki
Spiny Asparagus



Kiesħha
Evergreen Traveller's Joy



Narcis Imwaħħar
Autumn Narcissus



Siġra tal-ħarif
Wolfbane



Tulliera
Sticky Fleabane



Żaghfran Selvaġġ
Yellow-throated Crocus



Xorbett
Golden Samphire



Ċfolloq
Autumn Buttercup



Liedna
Ivy



Busieq
Mediterranean Meadow-saffron

Hafna fjuri jifthu fir-rebbiegha imma hemm ukoll diversi pjanti li jifthu l-fjuri fl-istaġuni l-oħrajn. Dawn huma 10 speċi li jwarrdu fil-ħarifa. Meta toħroġ fil-kampanja ħu l-magażin miegħek u ttikkja dawk li ssib.

Merill

Blue Rock Thrush *Monticola solitarius*



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti – meħud fil-park tal-Majjistral



BirdLife
MALTA

IT'S FRIED EGG JELLYFISH SEASON AGAIN!

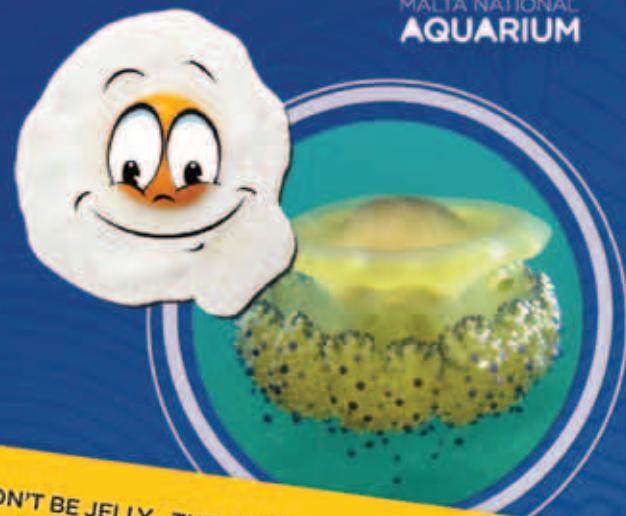
This beauty is known in Maltese as "qassata" due to its similarity with the traditional Maltese pastry. You can also hear people referring to it as "tal-lampuki" since it blooms from August to October, same period when the famous dolphinfish fishing season happens.

DID YOU KNOW?

When considering the size of the umbrella (the top part), the fried egg jellyfish can reach up to 35cm!

They obtain nutrients not only from the algae they host but also by ingesting small plankton- small organisms that float in the water and can't swim!

Loggerhead turtles love eating them! Fancy some yummy eggs for breakfast?



DON'T BE JELLY - THEY CANNOT HARM HUMANS!
Instead of only catching prey, these jellyfish also host tiny algae in their tentacles which give them not only a beautiful purple colour but also more nutrients for the jelly to survive! For this to happen these jellyfish always have to stay close to the water surface so the algae can be exposed to enough sunlight and then do photosynthesis. Why sting when you can be friends, right?

NOW IT'S TIME TO TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE!

1. What are jellyfish?
 A. Fish
 B. Animals related to corals and anemones
 C. Plants
2. How long have jellyfish been around in planet Earth?
 A. 100 years
 B. 1 million years
 C. 500 million years
3. How much of a jellyfish body is water?
 A. Up to 5%
 B. Up to 50%
 C. Up to 95%

Answers: 1.B, 2.C, 3.C



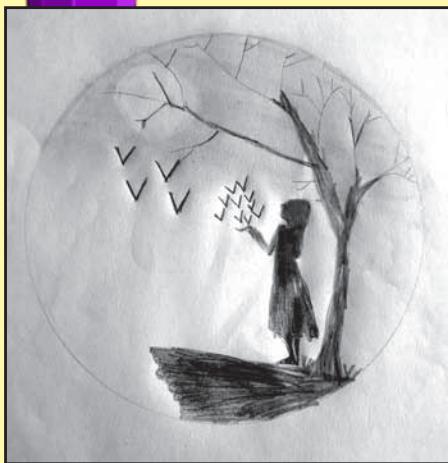
Colour the Storm- petrel

The storm-petrel is a tiny bird that lives all its life at sea. It only comes on land in summer to nest. Thousands of storm-petrels nest on Filfla Island - that's why this bird's Maltese name is Kanġu ta' Filfla.

Go to page 15 to see how Klabb Huttaf kids helped storm-petrels.



**Send us
your nature
drawings!**



Elena Curmi
(Yr 4 Laura Vicuña, Għasri)



Spurge Hawkmoth



Kingfisher
Emerson Cardona (Yr 6 Mosta B)



Victor Falzon

iż-żanżarell tat-tikek

L-insectoraptor tal-ġonna!

Minkejja li jismu żanżarell tat-tikek (bl-Ingliz *spotted*) fuq sidru mhux tikek għandu imma strixxi. Iż-żanżarelli l-oħrajn m'għandhomx marki fuq sidirhom.

Munqaru rqiq qisu pinzetta fina, għoddha tajba biex biha jaħtaf insetti żgħar!

Saqajh qosra u suwed.

Bhal żanżarelli oħrajn, iħobb jitperreċ f'tarf ta' fergħa biex minn hemm itir u jaħtaf insett mill-ajru. Imbagħad spiss jerġa' lura għal fuq l-istess perċa.

Ġwinhajh itwal minn taż-żanżarelli l-oħrajn.

Iħobb jagħti tferfiriet qosra b'denbu, *flicking* bl-Ingliz.

Isem xjentifiku
Muscicapa striata
Isem bl-Ingliz
Spotted Flycatcher
Daqs **13.5–15cm**
Piż **15g**
Ikel **insetti żgħar**
Habitat msaġar u ġonna
Status **Komuni fil-passa.**
Ibejjet f'numri żgħar,
qed jinfirex bil-mod.



Jekk trid titghalliem iktar fuq l-ghasafar li jbejtu f'Malta *The Breeding Birds of Malta* huwa l-ktieb għalik. Għall-bejjha mill-BirdLife u xi hwienet tal-kotba.

Raymond Galea



Id-daqs propriu ta' bajda taż-żanżarell tat-tikek



Yvette Borg

Victor Falzon



Il-bejta s-soltu jibnuha f'siġar kbar bħal żnuber u cipress.

Imma mhux dejjem!

Żanżarell żagħżugħ li m'ilux li tajjar (tgħallek itir).

John J. Borg

John J. Borg



... u din bnewha ġo gandlier tal-metall imdendel mis-saqaf ta' bini miftuħ!

Koniferi x'ikunu?

Koniferi huma siġar li jkabbru l-prinjoli, bħal żnuber u cipress.

Isa hej x'inti brava!

Żanżarell qed jitma' liż-żewġ uliedu mfarfrin u mgewħin!

Jien jien jien!

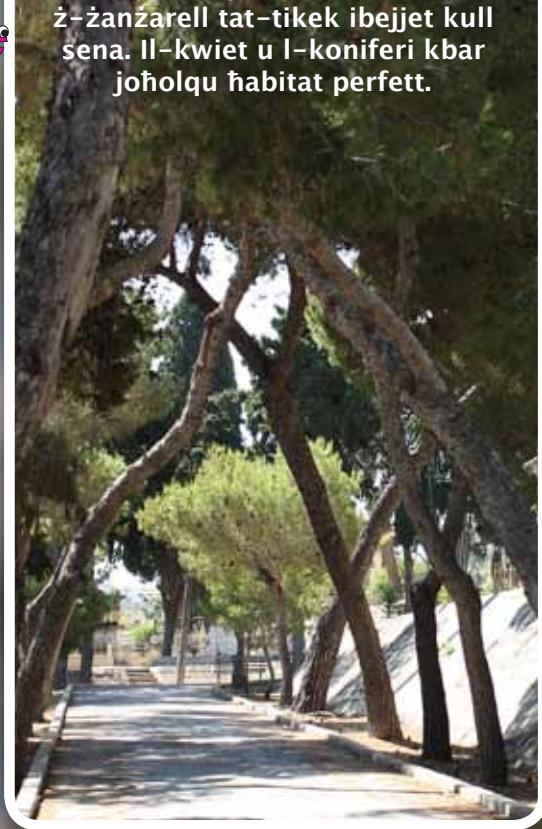


Aron Tanti



Fiċ-ċimiterju tal-Addolorata ż-żanżarell tat-tikek ibejjet kull sena. Il-kwiet u l-koniferi kbar joħolqu habitat perfett.

Viviane Falzon



AMY'S DIARY

Heyyy Huttafers,

The one and only Amy here!

I hope you are all keeping safe and sound at school or at home. I wasn't very happy to start school. I do miss the beach so very much! But we go the country side on weekends. And I get to ride the bike I got for Christmas.

I have set my eyes on the coolest helmet ever. Mum and Dad said I already have a good helmet so, if I wanted another one, I had to figure out how to save for it.

I thought I would be fine, to be honest, my piggy bank **LILY** is usually quite heavy. So I was very upset when I found her... ALMOST EMPTY!



AMY'S "How **NOT** to spend all your money" **QUICK GUIDE**

DO

- ✓ eat packed lunch
- ✓ carry water in eco-friendly reusable water bottle
- ✓ play with free apps
- ✓ borrow books from the library
- ✓ compare prices before buying

DON'T

- ✗ buy snacks and junk food
- ✗ Spend all your money as soon as you get it
- ✗ drink sugary soft drinks in plastic bottles
- ✗ buy before checking prices
- ✗ spend without keeping track

How could it be when I've been helping out and earning money?

Not gonna lie, sulking about it all morning was not my finest moment...

Turns out, no matter how much you earn, you will never save if you spend it all...

Check out my DO's & DON'Ts!

Peace Out
Amy

Look after the CENTS and the EUROS will look after themselves

Showing respect!



Someone needed to put up a railing across this place, but there was a tree root in the way. So did they chop down the tree to make way for the fence? No, they chopped up a piece of the fence instead, to make way for the tree. This picture was not taken in Malta. Do you think people respect trees in Malta?

Last spring BirdLife built a log island in the middle of one of the old Salina saltponds. Birds like **herons** and **cormorants** love to perch on log islands in the middle of lakes because they feel safe there. **Fish** and **shrimps** too love to swim and hide among the logs underwater, so it's a great place too for **grebes** to dive and look for lunch!

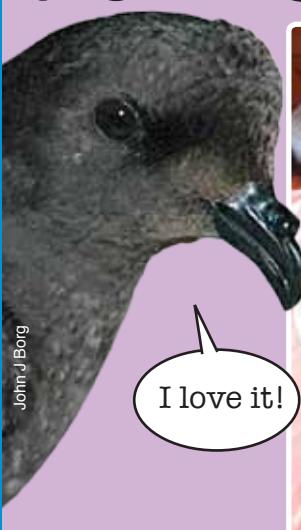
Salina is turning into a wonderful nature reserve!



Aron Tanti

Down at Salina...

Homes for the Stormies!



On 26 September 2020, Klabb Fluttafa families joined our seabird experts at Salina nature reserve to learn more about the Mediterranean storm-petrel. They helped us build nest boxes for these tiny seabirds. In spring these boxes will be taken to Filfla for the storm-petrels to use. The nest boxes are specially designed to keep the birds safe from predators. Thanks everyone!



Photos Katarzyna Pacon

Always check for activities on our website www.birdlifemalta.org or on Facebook

I can do this!

Photo competition!

Take pictures of your favourite animals, plants or other nature things and

win!



Take part in the
BirdLife Junior Photo Competition!

There's prizes!

- 1 Binoculars
- 2 Bird Memory Game
- 3 Book *Għasafar Madwarrna*

Entry opens 1 Nov 2020
Entry ends 30 Nov 2020

For more details send an email to
education@birdlifemalta.org



Msaġar Ċimteri!

Il-Miżieb u I-Aħrax huma

I-ikbar imsaġar ta' Malta.

Bejniethom fihom

ħames darbiet daqs il-Buskett.

Issa li dawn I-artijiet

spiċċaw f'idejn il-kaċċaturi,

il-qtil tal-għasafar fihom se jkun

orrendi.

Dehra mill-ajru ta'
parti mill-masġar
tal-Miżieb

Il-BirdLife tikkundanna
I-ghoti ta' art publika
lil grupp nies li
kull ma jinteressahom hu
li joqtlu l-għasfar.