

il-Huttafa

Numru 164

Mejju - Ġunju 2021



Ballotra



Għeżeż Huttaf ...

Meta kont Year 3 kellna ktieb tal-qari jismu Ġabru ta' Ward u fih kien hemm kitba jisimha Il-Bies. Is-Ser spjegalna li bies huwa għasfur. Dik kienet l-ewwel darba li smajt bih.

Meta kbirt ftit u dħalt fil-BirdLife tghallimt ħafna fuq il-bies: li jaqbad għasafar oħrajin waqt li jkunu qed itiru, u li jinżel fuqhom b'heffa ta' 300km fis-siegħha. Waww!

Xtrajt il-ktieb *L-Agħasafar* u fih qrajt li l-bies ibejjet fl-irdumijiet ta'



IL-BIES

“Piet, taf fejn mar il-bies?”
“Dak li kien fuq il-ħajt?”
“Iva, Piet, dak il-bies.”
“Dak tar u mar.”
“Min jaf jekk marx fil-wied?”

Malta u Għawdex. Bdejt nixxennaq biex nara wieħed, u staqsejt lil Joe Sultana, wieħed mill-awturi tal-ktieb. Imma Joe qalli li l-bisien Maltin kienu leħqu nqatlu kollha mill-vandali bis-snieter.

Kemm idispjaċjeni. Imma Joe kien qalli wkoll “Tibżax Vic, jekk il-BirdLife tibqa’ tgħallem kemm hi sabiħa n-natura ħajja, in-nies jibdew jirrispettaw l-għasafar. U l-bies forsi jerġa’ jbejjet fl-irdum.”

Fast forward 35 sena!

Illum xi pari bisien qed jerġgħu jbejtu fl-irdum ta’ pajjiżna. U kif taraw f’paġna 3, xi bejtiet irnexxew. Hemm ħafna li għadna ma nafux fuq il-bisien ta’ Malta. Tgħid l-istess pari qed ibejtu kull sena? Tgħid hemm frieh li kibru u bdew ibejtu huma stess fl-irdumijiet? Jew kollha sparawlhom?

Xi darba l-BirdLife nagħmlu studju ħalli nitghallmu s-sigriet tal-bisien ta’ Malta.

Gawdu l-vaganzi u s-sajf. Basta tibżgħu għax-xatt u għall-ħajja tal-ħażżeja.

Victor

Victor Falzon L-Editur



Ballottra
Weasel Mustela nivalis

Il-ballottra hija annimal żgħir u mgerrex, u ħafna nies qatt ma raw waħda. Tiekol għrieden, firien, gremxul u insetti kbar u tgħix f'postijiet fejn hemm pjanti folti, qalb hitan tas-sejjieħ qodma, eċċ. Ghalkemm żgħira, il-ballottra hija xorta waħda l-ikbar carnivoru (tal-art) ta’ Malta. Bhall-mammiferi l-oħrajin kważi kollha, il-ballottra hija mharsa bil-liġi.



Għasfur ta’ San Martin
fuq zokk ħdejn għadira,
għassha għal xi ħuta fl-ilma.



F'din il-ħargħa...

Mill-editur	2
Aħbarijiet	3
X'rajt fil-ġnien!	4
Ambjentalisti f'xatt il-baħar	5
Amy's page	6
Farfetterija!	7
Il-Fras-servjent	8-9
Rock Pools	10
The yelkie	11
Ġonna Dinja Waħda	12
Smiley & Grumpy	13
Reefs and Caves	14
Il-Gremxula	15
Saving the forest animals	16

Who wrote in this issue?

Thais Amaral (National Aquarium), Elena (Ecohive), Desirée Falzon, Victor Falzon, Marie Vella (BOV)

Klabb Huttaf

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.

Contact

tel 21347645 / 21347646
emergency injured bird 79255697
address 57/28 Triq Abate Rigord
Ta' Xbiex XBX 1120
email info@birdlifemalta.org
website www.birdlifemalta.org



Żewġ bisien

Dawn t'hawn fuq huma żewġ bisien aħwa żgħażagh qed jitbellhu fl-ajru. Fihom għaxxa tarahom jixxadinjaw u jirfinaw l-arti tat-titjir. Speċjalment għax dawn iż-żewgt aħwa faqqsu u kibru Malta.

Il-bies (peregrine falcon *Falco peregrinus*) huwa sequer kbir li għal eluf ta' snin kien ibejjet kull sena f'pajjiżna, tant li ħafna jaħfu bħala *The Maltese Falcon*. Imma bil-mišħuta kaċċa illegali il-bies inqered minn Malta fis-Sniż Tmenin.

F'dawn l-aħħar snin, però, xi pari reġgħu bejtu. Iż-żewġ bisien tar-riżiż huma fil-fatt frieħ minn bejta ta' din is-sena.

Prosit Aron tar-riżiż sabiħ!



Wara 100 sena . . .

Fit-30 Marzu 2021 in-naturalist ħabib tagħna Ben Metzger mar passiġġata f'sit 'Natura 2000. Hemmhekk sab roqqha fjuri li qatt ma kien ra bħalhom f'Malta: kienu **orkidi tal-ilsien** (tongue orchid *Serapias lingua*), speċi li f'Malta kienet ilha ma tidher xi 100 sena, tant li kienet meqjusa 2-estinta minn pajjiżna. Dawn l-orkidi jisimhom hekk għax għandhom il-petala t'isfel twila u mdendla qisu lsien qed jghajbek! F'Malta għandna iktar minn 30 speci ta' orkidi, uħud minnhom 3-endemiċi għal Malta.

B'xorti tajba Ben kelli l-kamera u ħa ftit ritratti tal-fjuri, li għoġġu jaqsamhom magħna. Grazzi u prosit!



Il-proġett jismu hekk għax l-isem xjentifiku tal-garni huwa *Puffinus*.

Lenti fuq il-Garni

Iktar ma nitghallmu fuq l-għasafar iktar inkunu nistgħu ngħinuhom. Fit-ġranet ilu l-BirdLife bdiet studju ġdid fuq il-garnija u l-garnija Balearika biex nitghallmu x'perikli jħabbtu wiċċhom magħhom daż-żewġ tajriet tal-baħar. Pereżempju ħafna garni jinqabad bi żball fis-snana tas-sajd

imma ma nafux kemm – b'dan l-istudju ħa nsiru nafu.

Il-proġett jismu **LIFE PanPuffinus!** u se jdum ħames snin. Flimkien ma' BirdLife Malta hemm il-BirdLife ta' Franzia, ta' Spanja, tal-Portugall u tal-Greċċa, kif ukoll il-Ministeru tas-Sajd, u aġenzija mill-gvern Grieg.

Hemm iktar fuq il-garni f'paġna 11.

¹Natura 2000. Dawn huma postijiet speċjali fejn in-natura hija mharsa bil-liġi, fejn ċertu żvilupp ma jistax isir. F'Malta għandna xi 50 sit Natura 2000.

²estint. Speci li tkun inqerdet għal kollox minn x'imbien jew anke mid-dinja (bl-Ingliz *extinct*)

³endemiċi. Speċi li ssibhom biss f'xi postijiet um kien iktar fid-dinja.



X'rajt fil-ġnien

Desirée Falzon

Desirée Falzon



Kont qed inħares qalb il-weraq tal-bużbież u ma' werqa rajt imwaħħlin xi affarijiet żgħar qishom rossiet oranġjo. Harist mill-viċin iktar u ndunajt li kienu bajd, aktarx ta' xi insett mid-daqs tagħhom.

Hadtilhom ir-ritratt li taraw hawn fuq u għamilt nota f'mohħi biex niċċekjahom kuljum, halli meta jfaqqsu nara x'kienu. Tliet ijiem wara solvejt il-misteru, għax sibt nannakola qed tħid bajd eż-żarru bħalhom!

Issa qabditni kuržitā biex nara ż-żgħar tan-nannakola. U malajr qtajt xewqt, għax ma damux ma faqqsu u ħarġu annimali żgħar ma jixbhu xejn lil ommhom. Kien qishom dud griži, b'sitt saqajn u ħafna ponot suwed. Fil-fatt ħafna insetti jkunu qishom dud meta jfaqqsu. Huma u jikbru jinbidlu bil-mod sa ma jsiru bħall-adulti.



Nannakola qed tħid

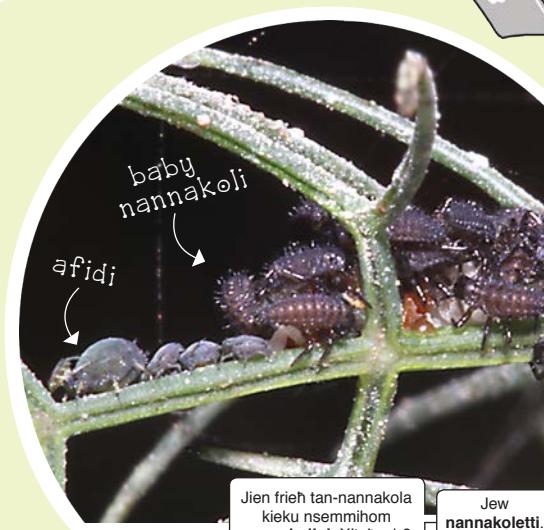
Issa ridt inkun naf x'jeklu! Għall-ewwel hsibt li qed inaqqrū z-zokk tal-bużbieża li kienu fuqha. Għed f'qalbi "Mela ommhom bidithom fuq pjanta li jħobbu jeklu. Bħalma jagħmlu l-friedet."

Imma kelli żball, għax in-nannakoli mhux pjanti jekku. Madwar in-nannakoli

żgħar rajt ħafna afidi, insetti daqs nitfa li jsoffu s-sugu tal-pjanta. In-nannakoli żgħar lilhom kienu qed jeklu!

Mela għalhekk ommhom biedet hemm, għax kienet taf li ż-żgħar tagħha se jsibu ħafna afidi x'jeklu. Waww!

L-afidi
ighidulhom ukoll
briegħed tal-pjanti, bl-
Ingliz aphids jew greenfly.



Jien friek tan-nannakola kieku nsemmihom nannakolini. X'tahseb?

Jew nannakoletti.

Mmm, very nice!

Victor Falzon

Victor Falzon

Ambjentalisti f'xatt il-baħar

Issa li beda l-istaġun tal-għawm
irridu niftakru ngħibu ruħna
ta' ambjentalisti anke fil-baħar
u fix-xatt. Ix-xatt u l-baħar
huma d-dar ta' ħafna annimali.
Aħna viżitaturi biss.



Ma narmu xejn fix-xatt għax
riħ itiru fil-baħar u jittieklu minn
ħut, fkieren jew tajr tal-baħar.
Narmu dejjem fil-lanex apposta,
jew niħdu lura magħna d-dar.



Aġħmel mini clean-up! Aqbad
borża, inżel fil-baħar u iġbor
affarrijiet tal-plastik li ssib fl-ilma
baxx. Imbagħad itla' armihom
fil-landa apposta.



Ma naqbdux annimali
mill-baħar jew mix-xatt.
L-annimali jibżgħu meta aħna
naqbduhom. Inħalluhom jgħixu
fil-paċċi fl-ambjent tagħhom.



Meta nixtru sunblock biex
nindilku f'xatt il-baħar, nixtru
prodotti li (a) ma jkunux ittestjati
fuq l-annimali u (b) li ma jkunx
fihom kimika li tniġġes il-baħar.

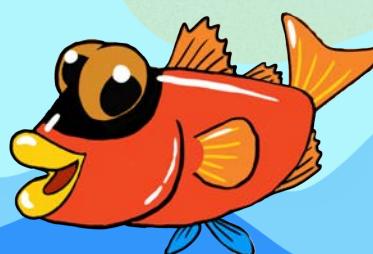


Jekk qeqħdin f'xatt bir-ramel
filgħaxija, ma nimmirawx dwal
lejn il-baħar, biex jekk fekruna
tal-baħar tithajjar titla' tħbid fir-
ramla, ma ngerrxuhiex.



Il-plastik ma
jitmirmirx bħall-injam
u l-ġebel u l-metall.
Il-plastik li jispiċċa
fil-baħar jibqa' hemm
eluf tas-snin.

Aħna n-naturalisti tajjeb li
nitghallmu fuq in-natura kull
fejn immoru. B'maskla u pajp
nistgħu nosservaw il-hajja tal-
baħar anke f'ilma baxx hafna.



AMY'S DIARY

all about FINANCE Word Search

R D G B J A W C K C F U N D S
 K E C O A L A L E A R N T R A
 A P S V A D N D E S M E A Z V
 N O T P E L T O S P E N D R E
 E S O I O I S N F E N M O I N
 E I E G Z N H A C U E A G H T
 D T B G Q T S T V R Q N K O K
 S H A Y U E Y I J O X A U L W
 X O L B K R N O B U D G E T M
 R W A A U E V N W I C E A D Q
 K G N N Q S X S Z F L E H Y E
 P O C K E T M O N E Y I N C K
 I Q E J E Z M Q U W I K T T U
 J O G H V F I N A N C E Q Y S
 A C C O U N T K O Z E P L A N

POCKET MONEY
RESPONSIBILITY
BOV PIGGY BANK

DONATIONS

SAVE	CREDIT
SPEND	DEPOSIT
WANTS	BUDGET
EURO	ACCOUNT
CENTS	EARN
	FUND

FINANCE	GOALS
NEEDS	MANAGE
PLAN	BALANCE
INTEREST	



WINNERS!!

WILDLIFE DRAWING COMPETITION

Kendra Galea

Yr 6



Nina Galea

Yr 4



Daniel Calleja

Yr 1



A mega
WELL DONE to all participants!
Watch this space for more
COMPETITIONS!

Farfetterija!

Ftit ilu fuq bużbieża fil-ġnien sibt din il-bajda. Wara jumejn faqqset...

... u hareġ dan id-dudu!

Beda jiekol il-weraq tal-bużbież, u wara jumejn...



Wara xahrejn fil-fosdqa, hareġ dal-ġmiel!



Wara jumejn ohra...



Fl-ahhar waqaf jiekol, intrabat b'harira ma' zokk, u sar fosdqa.

Wara jumejn ohra...



Wara hamest ijiem ohra...

Wara jumejn ohra...



Din hi l-hajja tax-xagħat tal-farfett tal-bużbież (swallowtail butterfly, *Papilio machaon*).

F Il-Huttafa 158
konna ġibna lista ta' 18-il isem
differenti bil-Malti ta' dan il-farfett.



Fras-servjent (flimkien mal-familja!)

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*



Ritratt ta' Aron Tanti meħud ftit ġimħat ilu fir-riserva naturali tal-Għadira



BirdLife
MALTA

ROCK POOLS

Rocky shores are found throughout the Maltese archipelago and create habitats called 'rock pools'. These are filled up and emptied daily with seawater due to the variation in the tide levels, being above water level at low tide and underwater at high tide. Yet, in the Mediterranean such variation in the tide levels is very small.



MALTA NATIONAL
AQUARIUM



Everyone has an important role!

Rock pools are like miniature communities of plants and animals: the seaweed capture the sunlight energy for growth; herbivorous (vegetarian) animals such as periwinkles and limpets eat the plants; and then predators ranging from whelks to octopus hide among the crevices and prey on the herbivores!

Why is it hard to survive in these habitats?

The animals who live in rock pools are very susceptible to daily changes in temperature, oxygen, salinity and the action of waves, which require specific adaptations for surviving. Imagine if your house gets flooded and then super dry many times everyday!

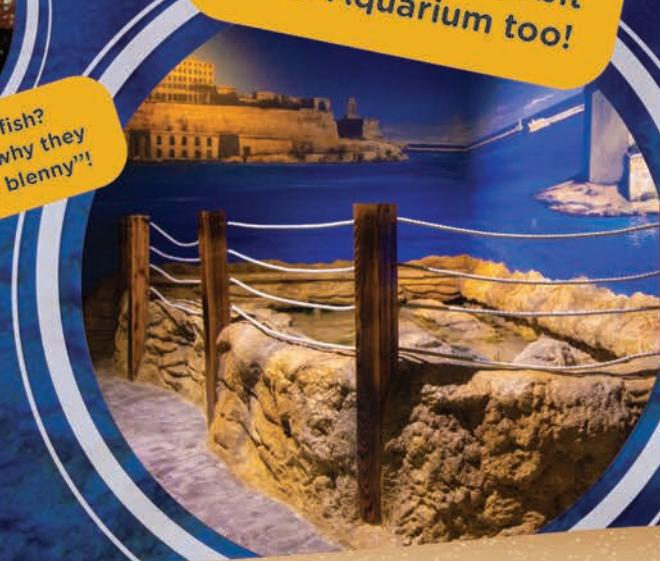


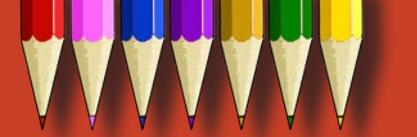
What types of animals can we find in rock pools?

In Malta, tide pools are inhabited by animals like clams, crabs, urchins, starfish, barnacles and anemones. Look out for them next time you go to the beach!

Can you spot the fish?
Well, I guess that's why they
call it the "mystery blenny"!

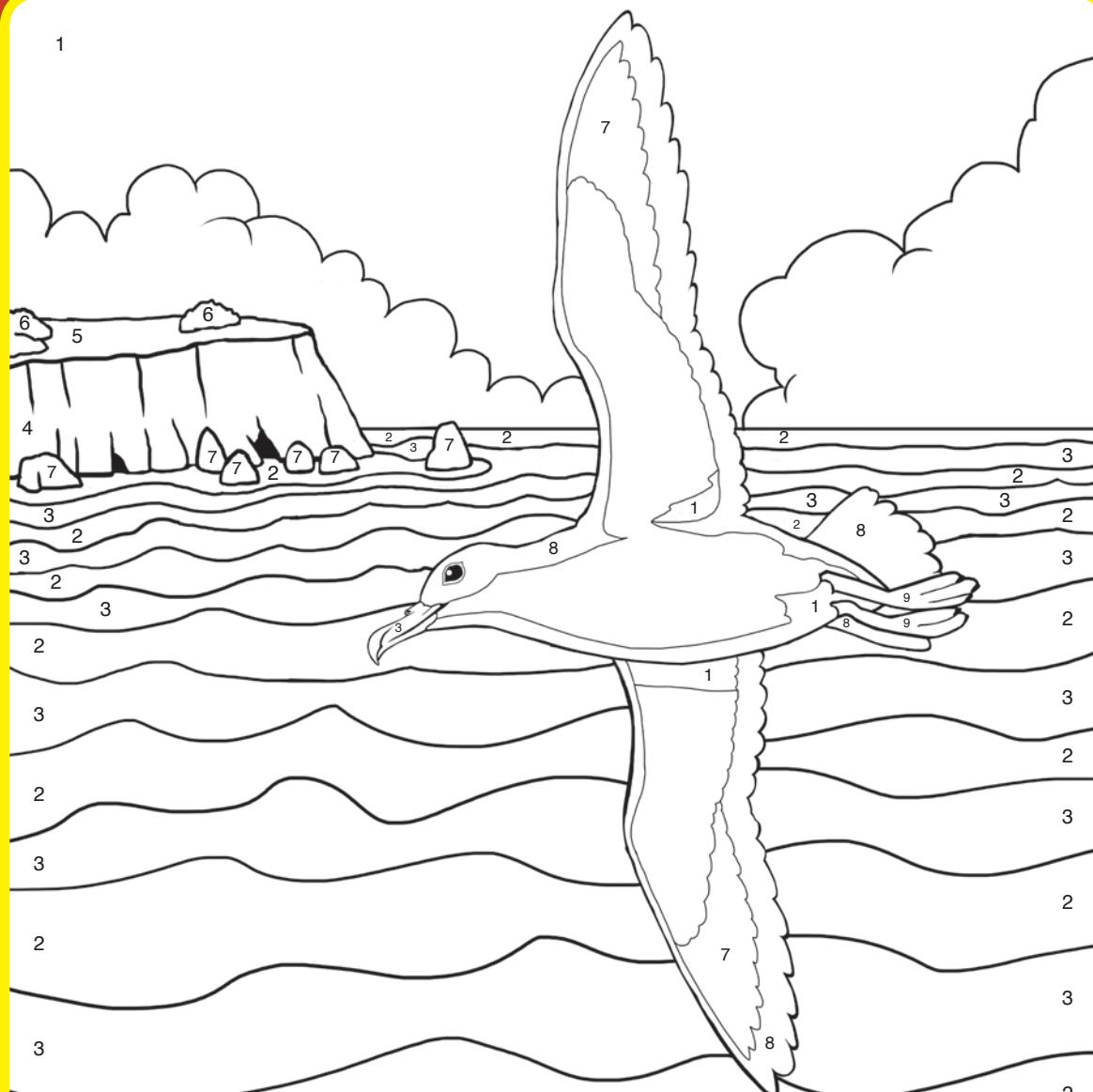
Oh, and there is a
new rockpool exhibit
at the Aquarium too!





Colour the Yelkie!

Victor Falzon



Here's a lovely yelkouan shearwater (*garnija*) for you to colour. Use the number guide to colour the picture.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| 6 | |
| 7 | |
| 8 | |
| 9 | |

If the patch has no number, leave the patch white.



Pep Arcos

Yelkouan Shearwater

Here's a real yelkie in her favourite habitat. Yelkies live almost all their life at sea, flying, swimming and diving for fish. Yelkies like to stay in big groups. When it's time to nest they fly to the land and look for nice holes in the sea cliffs. That's where they lay their egg.

The strange name yelkouan comes from *yelkovana*, a Turkish word that means "chases the wind!"



ĠONNA DINJA WAħDA

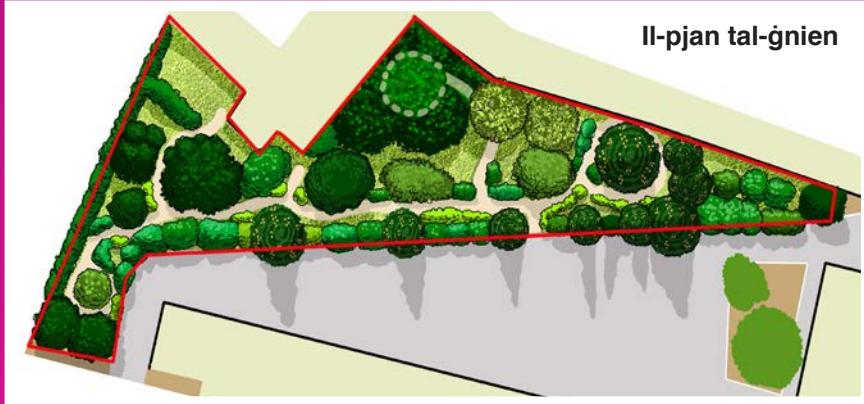


Victor
Falzon

Post: Skola Primarja Fgura B (Kulleġġ St Thomas More)

L-isem tal-ġnien: Wildlife Garden

Area tal-ġnien: 730m²



Fil-bidu. Studenti tal-Yr 5 qed iħawlu u jsaqqu l-ewwel siġra tal-ġħargħar.

L-iskola primarja tal-Fgura għandha x-xorti li għadha tgawdi diversi rqajja' ħamrija u ħdura madwarha. Fl-1992 xi għalliema u studenti bdew jaħdmu f'waħda minn dawn l-irrqajja'. Għażqu, ħaffru, żerġħu u ħawlu. Ftit ftit bidluha f'riversa naturali żgħira.



Twaħħal rixtellu fuq quddiem biex jipprotegi l-ġnien.



Il-ġnien illum

Dan kien l-ewwel
Gnien Ninja Waħda.



Studenti qed jimlew fliexken bil-ħamrija biex jiżirgħu fihom.



Xi qnieded
kultant iżżuru
l-ġnien bil-lejl

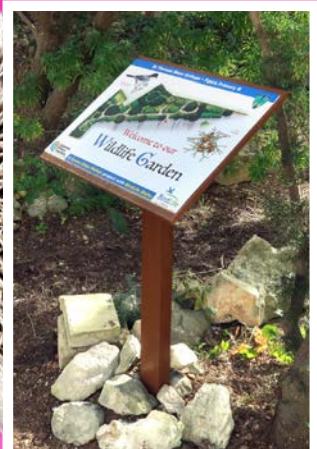


Tabella tal-merħba

Victor Falzon

Desirée Falzon



Smiley and Grumpy

Good news and bad news from around the world



For peat's sake!



The sundew grows in peat bogs. It catches flies to eat!

Peat is a special kind of soil that's made when plants rot slowly after hundreds of years. Where there's a lot of peat, it forms a natural wet habitat called peat bog. Many rare plants grow in peat bogs, and birds like curlews and golden plovers nest there too.

But people keep digging up the peat to sell it as fuel or as garden fertiliser. Many peat bogs in the world are now lost.

The UK has lots of peat bogs, especially in Scotland. Many of them are lost, but now the government in the UK said: **"Okay, we're going to make a law to stop people selling peat."**

They're also going to spend lots of money to protect peat bogs, so the habitat can get healthy again.

Less flights in France



Plane make pollution streaks in the sky.

Airplanes use up lots of fuel to fly. The CO₂ gas that comes out of the fuel is making the weather hotter. So **more flights = more CO₂ = more pollution = hotter weather**. Nobody wants the weather to get hotter.

The answer is to make less flights. And France did just that. It stopped short flights and told people to use trains instead. It's not much, but it's a start. Austria did the same last year, maybe other countries will copy the idea.

But why trains? Well, trains are much cleaner for the environment than planes. They're much better than cars too.



Lemurs lose their home



Sifaka mum and baby, in big danger!

Lemurs are so cute, they look like woolly soft toys. But lemurs are in big trouble too.

There are 107 species of lemurs, and they all live in the forests of Madagascar. But people are chopping down and burning all the forests in Madagascar. If the lemurs lose their home, they will become extinct.

Some people also hunt lemurs to eat them or sell them as pets.

All the lemurs of Madagascar are in trouble, but **33 species of them are in real danger**. They can all be extinct very soon.



Keep these Saturdays free!

Saturday 14 August 2021 Details later

Saturday 18 September 2021 Details later

Saturday 11 December 2021 Details later

On all these dates we'll be having Klabb Huttaf activities. We still don't know what all the activities will be but we're working on it, and we'll tell you in other issues of the magazine. And of course you can always check our website www.birdlifemalta.org for the latest news.

Learn more at
www.birdlifemalta.org





Reefs & Caves



Reefs & caves are important habitats that are very diverse in terms of the communities they support. They are considered '**biodiversity hotspots**' and host a variety of species, including algae, corals, sponges, molluscs, crustaceans and fish. In view of this, these habitats are afforded protection through legal instruments

Reefs can be divided into two types: **geogenic reefs**, which are made of geological features, such as boulders or rocks that create a three-dimensional structure, or **biogenic reefs** which are concretions formed from dead or living organisms, they provide a surface where other species can live. Cold water corals found in deep offshore waters are examples of this biogenic reefs.

The orange area shows the Marine Protected Areas in which **reefs and caves** are found.



Caves around the Maltese Islands have been formed over time through wave action and geological processes. So called '**karst caves**' along the coast create impressive landscapes on land and under water.

Communities of marine flora and fauna found in caves change in composition from the entrance to darker parts deeper into the cave. Features such as light, currents and temperature influence which species are present.

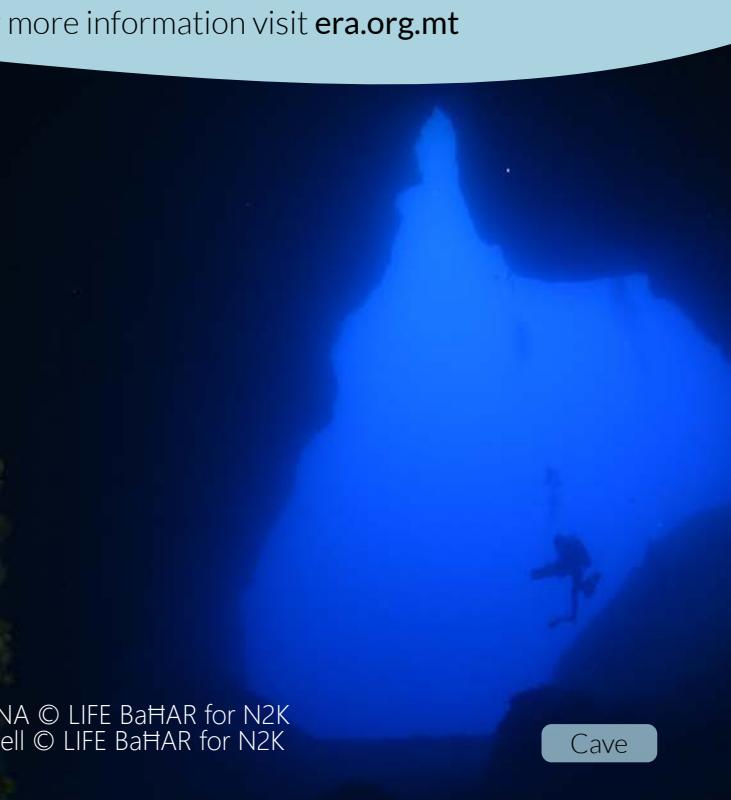
Apart from the various caves found along our coastline, caves have also been found offshore at depths of 200m to 780m. These are thought to have formed a very long time ago, some 5-7 million years ago when the Mediterranean Sea was mostly dry.



Cold Water Coral Reefs

Many species found on reefs or cave walls – such as sponges and bryozoans are fragile and sensitive, and can thus be harmed if touched. Care should be taken not to touch or hit them. Due to their vulnerability a number of species found in reefs and caves have been given legal protection.

For more information visit era.org.mt



il-Gremxula



Victor Falzon

- Il-gremxula hija waħda minn disa' speċi ta' rettili tal-art li nsibu f'Malta.
- L-isem bl-Ingliż tal-gremxula huwa **Maltese wall lizard**, u l-isem xjentifiku huwa *Podarcis filfolensis*.
- Il-gremxula ta' Malta hija **endemika**, jiġifieri tinstab f'Malta biss u mkien iktar fid-dinja.
- Il-gremxul irġiel tagħrafhom min-nisa għax ikollhom ħafna aħdar. In-nisa jkunu kannella.
- Il-gremxul jiekol annimali żgħar bħal nemel, xgħat (caterpillars) u dud. Inaqqar ukoll frott jew tadam misjur li jsib fl-art.
- Il-gremxula tgħix f'diversi ħabitati, fosthom raba', steppa, xagħri u ġonna. Dan il-ħabitat qed jonqos għax ħafna kampanja qed tinbena u ħafna ġonna qed jinbidlu f'pixxini.
- Bħal ħafna rettili, fix-xitwa l-gremxul jidħol jorqod fit-tul fi xquq fil-ħitan jew blat.
- Jeżistu erba' razex tal-gremxula. L-iktar razza komuni hija dik li naraw madwarna, u tgħix fuq Malta, Għawdex u Kemmuna.

- Razza oħra tgħix biss fuq Il-Ğebla tal-Ġeneral, gżira ċkejkna f'Għawdex.
- Razza oħra tgħix biss fuq Filfla. Kbira u sewda, b'tikek koħol.
- Hemm razza oħra li tinsab fuq Linosa u Lampione, żewġ gżejjjer żgħar Taljani.
- Sa xi snin ilu kienet teżisti razza oħra fuq il-Ğejjer ta' San Pawl. Din ir-razza nqedet, aktarx kiluha l-firien li nvadew il-gżira.
- Jekk predator jaqbad gremxula minn denbha, din kapaċi twaqqa' denbha u taħrab.
- Wara xi żmien jikbrilha ieħor.
- Bħar-rettili kollha ta' Malta, il-gremxula hija mħarsa bil-ligi.



Linosa u Lampione qiegħdin xi 130km fil-punten ta' Malta.



Il-Ğebla tal-Ġeneral

Victor Falzon



ECOHIVE MISSIONS

SAVING THE FOREST ANIMALS

WRITTEN BY ELENA

IT WAS A PERFECT DAY FOR A FIELD TRIP...

CLEAN NATURE
MEANS A HEALTHY
ENVIRONMENT FOR
THE ANIMALS.

II-Huttafa 164 • Günju 2021 • p16

AND IF YOU
SEE OTHERS
LITTERING, IT
DOESN'T MEAN
YOU SHOULD
TOO!

