

Superintendence of Cultural Heritage

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF CULTURAL HERITAGE FOR THE YEAR 2012

1. DATA MANAGEMENT

National Inventory

The National Inventory of Cultural Property in the Maltese Islands (NICPMI) is a statutory function of the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage (Cultural Heritage Act CAP 445, Art. 7(5)). Limited resources in this area were successfully overcome during 2011 and 2012.

By the close of 2012, the number of Inventory records published by the Superintendence increased to a total of 1165. The table below shows the date of publication on the Government Gazette, the number of records and the subject recorded.

Compilation of the inventory involves field inspections, data gathering, internal data processing and publishing.

Publication No	Date of Publication	Theme/Subject	No of records
1 st	16 December 2011	Archaeological, Historical sites	25 records
2 nd	30 March 2012	Archaeology, Historical sites	35 records
3 rd	26 June 2012	Chapels and Niches	55 records
4 th	27 August 2012	Chapels and Niches	925 records
5 th	28 December 2012	Scheduled Architecture	125 records
Total Inventory Records			1165 records

Besides being published on the Government Gazette, the National Inventory is also available to the public, free of charge in PDF format. All the data sheets for individual cultural heritage properties published on the Government Gazette can be accessed freely and downloaded from the Superintendence website (www.culturalheritage.gov.mt). This service is designed to increase public knowledge as a stakeholder measure for the increased protection of the cultural heritage. As a public policy tool, the National Inventory contributes to community and identity enhancement at both national and Local Council levels.

In 2012 the Superintendence conducted two major data collection projects aimed at developing a complete inventory of specific cultural heritage assets. The two projects focused on *Historic Niches and Chapels in Malta and Gozo*, and *Knights Period Fortifications*. These cultural assets are landmarks and excellent reference points which are very much in the public eye. They also experience several impacts. In addition data capture on these particular areas has enabled the Superintendence to develop manageable pilot projects for inventory compilation.

Historic Niches and Chapels in Malta and Gozo

During 2012, a total of 980 niches and chapels were recorded from 35 Local Councils. It is estimated that by the end of the project, approximately 1000 more records will be collected from the remaining 33 Local Councils. The table below shows the records collected so far (end 2012) per locality.

Malta Majjistral			Malta Xlokk			Gozo		
	H'Attard	15		Birgu	22		Il-Fontana	13
	Hal Balzan	26		Bormla	23		Ghajnsielem	20
	Birkirkara	123		Floriana	15		L-Gharb	18
	Il-Gzira	4		Isla	23		L-Ghasri	7
	L-Iklin	2		Kalkara	11		Kerċem	12
	Hal Lija	27		Marsa	39		Il-Munxar	10
	Msida	12		Rahal Gdid	25		In-Nadur	21
	Pieta	12		Valletta	70		Il-Qala	9
	Hal Qormi	176		Total	228		San Lawrenz	5
	San Giljan	11					Ta' Sannat	9
	San Gwann	9					Ir-Rabat	82
	Santa Venera	14					Ix-Xaghra	33
	Sliema	53					Ix-Xewkija	19
	Total	484					Iż-Żebbuġ	10
							Total	268

National Inventory of Knights Period Fortifications

This new project was started by the Superintendence in 2012, following the signing of an agreement with the International Institute of Baroque Studies of the University of Malta. The compilation of the inventory of this important class of architectural monuments has been entrusted to Dr. Stephen C. Spiteri. The project should be completed during 2013 and should include approximately 300 new records for inclusion in the National Inventory. The detailed inventory of specific features and details is design to increase information on the fortifications, and will be not only of interest to researchers and cultural enthusiasts, but also to MEPA, architects and several practitioners.

Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System (CHIMS)

CHIMS is an electronic, internet-based inventory custom built specifically for the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The Cultural Heritage Inventory Management System combines the functionalities of Heritage documentation with Geographic Information System (GIS). This online database lists items related to Culture and Heritage including: Archaeology, Architecture, Moveable items, Artefacts, Intangible Heritage. It allows the public to view inputted records as polygons on a digital map, whilst also accessing information on a particular site or artefact in PDF document. By 2012, CHIMS was populated with an additional 842 new entries. These new records included the Chapels and Niches entries compiled for the NICMPI. The table below shows the situation with respect to data inputting in CHIMS for the period 2011 / 2012.

Fields	By end-2011	2012	Total
Heritage Sites	81	842	923
Archaeological Interventions	10	0	10
Artefacts	1568	0	1568
Artistic Artefacts	23	0	23
Guardianship Deeds	9	5	13

2. LAND USE AND PLANNING (MEPA) MATTERS

Consultations regarding Land Use and Development Applications

An important core function of the Superintendence is the provision of technical and heritage policy guidance regarding the protection and suitable use of cultural heritage assets. This function mainly concerns archaeological and architectural heritage resources influenced by development and construction. The Superintendence directs or recommends protective mitigation measures, refusals and referrals of applications. This input is intensive and absorbs over 65% of the workload of the Superintendence.

In 2012, a total of 389 new development applications were examined by the Superintendence. Most of these applications were forwarded to Superintendence by MEPA and by Transport Malta, as shown in the table below. However, private and public developers, as well as interested third parties also request the position of the Superintendence on projected and ongoing developments. Assessing these applications requires individual assessment of the development documentation submitted by the developer, as well as

independent bibliographic and archival research by the Superintendence officers. Site inspections and meetings with the applicant and architect is often required to establish aspects of the proposal which may be of impact to the cultural heritage value of existing buildings, landscapes or other properties. The implications of proposed developments with respect to national legislation, as well as to other international legal documents (UNESCO and Council of Europe Conventions) are also assessed by the Superintendence officers. Regular consultative meetings are also held with MEPA officials to fully understand the implications of individual development applications. This intensive process of evaluation is carried out within the stringent time deadlines (30 days for Planning applications and 15 days for EIA applications) imposed by the planning process.

	302	Consultation Cases received from MEPA (including Tracking Cases)
	59	Road Work Permits received from Transport Malta
	11	Pre-Application Consultations by Developers
	17	Consultations by Third Parties (such as Planning Appeals Board, Registered Objectors, NGOs)
Total	389 Land Development Cases referred to the Superintendence in 2012	

Each year approximately 10% of the cases referred to the Superintendence by MEPA deal with major national projects dealing with a mixture of infrastructural, restoration and land redevelopment issues. The review of these cases by the Superintendence often must be extended to include consultations with interested national bodies, such as Transport Malta, the Grand Harbour Regeneration Committee, Works Division, Heritage Malta, Non-Governmental Organisations, as well as with other interested Ministries and Departments. Some of the major, new project proposals assessed by the Superintendence in 2012 are listed below:

- City Gate, Parliament Building and Opera House Projects
- Former Valletta Bus Terminus and the approach to City Gate
- Valletta Land Front Ditch, Excavation for construction of lift
- Central Bank Annex on St James Counterguard, Valletta
- Repaving works in Valletta
- Saluting Battery at Upper Barracca. Recovery of original entrance
- Fort St Elmo, conservation and adaptive re-use
- Former Fish Market and Quarantine Hospital, Barriera Wharf, Valletta. Proposed Hotel Brief
- George V Seamen's Hospital, Floriana. Proposed Hotel Brief
- Fort Tigne, Land Use and Re-development Proposal
- Rehabilitation of Birgu Land Front Ditch, Vittoriosa
- Fort St Angelo, Vittoriosa;
- Restoration and reconstruction of Entrance Ramp
- Conversion of Maçina , Senglea. Restoration and re-use.
- Restoration works on Mdina Bastions and in the Mdina Ditch
- Widening and Re-alignment of Coast Road from Bahar ic-Caghaq to St Paul's Bay
- National Flood Relief Project, ending in Wied Qirda, Haż-Żebbuġ
- Car Park on slopes of the Ċittadella
- Visitor Centre and Archaeological Park at Ġgantija Temples, Xaghra
- Qortin Landfill at il-Qortin ta' Ġhajn Damma, site re-development

Cultural Heritage Surveillance and Monitoring

Independently of MEPA consultations the Superintendence also processed another 150 development monitoring cases which were freshly initiated in 2012. These cases required a multiple field inspections and meetings, as well as archaeological interventions and field evaluations. In addition to these numbers, the Superintendence also handled a similar number of monitoring interventions of development projects that had been ongoing since 2011.

These cases involve a range of services: the monitoring of ongoing construction works in areas of potential archaeological interest, the surveillance of restoration projects, the archaeological evaluation of areas affected by development applications, and investigations associated with the Development Limits Rationalisation Process. The scale of these interventions is not uniform. In such cases the Superintendence prepares detailed field intervention method statements, compiles terms of reference, directs the surveillance or investigation, approves and supervises the engagement of monitoring free-lancers, reviews and archives the results obtained, and reports back to MEPA as and when required.

Monitoring services has grown in importance in recent years. The service was established by the Superintendence in order to extend its field ‘watching’ capacity in cases of development. The results have been extremely positive with several archaeological sites and features, and historic architectural buildings being constantly supervised during development projects. A number of archaeological sites are in fact discovered and recorded every year.

An additional benefit of these monitoring services is the growth of a small sector of self-employed archaeologists and researchers. While fulfilling the statutory requirements, the constant need for development monitoring has provided a source of employment for humanities graduates. The Superintendence publishes and periodically reviews a list of persons who can provide local developers with monitoring and archaeological services. This list is accessible on the website of the Superintendence following a public call for expressions of interest. In 2012 the number of registered monitors was 29, six more than in the previous year. Of these, 15 work on a full-time freelance basis.

The Superintendence provides comprehensive guidance and standards for monitoring and data capture. In 2011 this body of technical and procedural guidance was collected in the first edition of *Operating Procedures and Standards for Archaeology Services (OPSAS)*. A second edition of OPSAS was published in 2012, updating and simplifying procedures, and introducing a new section on cultural landscapes. This document can be freely downloaded from the Superintendence website.

3. MUSEUMS AND SITES

Guardianship Deeds

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage enters into and supervises Guardianship deeds for the management of public owned cultural heritage properties. According to the Cultural Heritage Act, Guardianship Deeds can be concluded with Non-Governmental Organisations and with Local Councils following necessary authorisation of the Minister and the Committee of Guarantee. The Superintendence

of Cultural Heritage is the public entity legally entrusted with the management and regulation of this process. Guardianship Deeds are management agreements that are specifically focused on ensuring the well-being and care of cultural heritage property. Deed documents are examined and considered on the bases of stringent conservation and management requirements. These requirements entail technical conservation and management policy documents which are attached to the guardianship deeds and submitted for ministerial and cabinet approval.

Guardianship Deeds provide a public policy framework for stakeholder participation in the management of cultural assets. Though mindful of the heavy commitment that the deeds entail, a number of NGOs have signed such agreements. This has been beneficial in terms of Third Sector participation. In addition, NGOs have attracted sponsors for conservation purposes. The success of Guardianship Deeds is partly due to their scale of objectives and highly focused objectives. This attracts resources which are often difficult to acquire in mainstream finance environments. Some important external benefits of Guardianship Deeds are employment, collection enlargement, public accessibility to archaeological sites and historic properties, public participation in NGOS, the continued growth of cultural heritage as a viable socio-economic sector.

By end of 2011 the number of completed Guardianship Deeds amounted to 14 in all, as in the table below:

	Name of Cultural Property	Locality	Name of Guardian	Year of Signature
1	Qalet Marku Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
2	Ghallis Tower	Naxxar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
3	Red Tower (aka Sta Agatha Tower)	Mellieha	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
4	Wignacourt Tower	San Pawl il-Baħar	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
5	Mamo Tower	Maraskala	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
6	Santa Maria Tower	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
7	Dwejra Tower	San Lawrenz	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
8	Santa Maria Battery	Għajnsielem	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
9	Msida Bastion Cemetery	Floriana	Din l-Art Helwa	2003
10	Lascaris War Rooms	Valletta	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2009
11	WWII shelter at 25, Britannia Sqr	Tarxien	Tarxien Local Council	2009
12	WWII Shelter at Sta Ubaldesca Str	Paola	Fondazzjoni Wirt Paola	2010
13	Couvre Porte Barracks at Vittoriosa (10 rooms at lower level) and	Vittoriosa	Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna	2011

	underlying WWII shelter			
14	Our Lady of Victory Church	Valletta	Din l-Art Helwa	2011

In 2012 the Superintendence carried out extensive preparatory work on a number of new proposed deeds.

In particular, the following Guardianship Deed drafts have been completed and presented to Government for signature as follows:

- Riĥama Battery: a joint request by Marsaskala Local Council and Għaqda Bajja San Tumas
- Hal Luqa WWII Shelters: Għaqda Mużikali Sant Andrija
- Wied iż-Żurrieq Tower: Din L-Art Helwa

During 2012 the Superintendence intensified its monitoring strategy for all existing Guardianship Deeds. An internal evaluation was launched in May 2012, starting with a series of one-to-one meetings with all the Guardians. This evaluation was carried out in a specifically designed contract management and review framework. During this process, all contract obligations were examined. The review encouraged feedback on challenges encountered during implementation of existing Guardianship Deeds.

Guidance was offered to Guardians on the expectations of the Superintendence with regards to the submission of deliverables. A comprehensive checklist of deliverables was drawn up and the individual status for each historical property in Guardianship was provided. The Superintendence carried out a follow-up exercise in November 2012 and informed the Guardians on the updated status of deliverables.

Collaboration with Heritage Malta on major projects

As in previous years the Superintendence has worked closely with Heritage Malta on a number of major conservation and infrastructural projects. These projects involve some of Malta's most important and sensitive cultural heritage sites. The Superintendence kept an ongoing surveillance of these projects, in some cases conducting archaeological investigations in collaboration with the curatorial staff of Heritage Malta. Collaborative projects have been undertaken at the following:

- Tarxien Temples, Hal Tarxien (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Ggantija Temples, Xagħra (UNESCO World Heritage Site)
- Fort St. Angelo, Birgu
- St. Paul's Catacombs and Santu Wistin Catacombs, Rabat
- Għajn Tuffieħa Baths, Mgarr
- Ta' Bistra Catacombs, Mosta

4. MOVEMENT OF GOODS

Export or Movement of Cultural Goods

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage regulates the export and movement of cultural goods moving between Malta and EU Member States, as well as from, or to non-EU countries. In 2012 the Superintendence examined the following cases referred to by the Customs Department or by MaltaPost:

- 306 cases of export of personal items from Malta.
- 12 cases of importation of cultural goods from outside the European Union
- 4 cases of declared exports of works of art

Temporary Movement of Cultural Goods

The Superintendence has also reviewed and regulated a number of applications for the temporary export of cultural goods out of the Maltese territory for purposes of restoration, exhibition or for other cultural purposes. The main cases handled in 2012 are listed below:

- ‘Treasures of Malta’ Exhibition – temporary export of collection of artefacts from Heritage Malta to London
- ‘St. Francis in Meditation’ – temporary export of privately owned 17th Century painting to Brazil for exhibition
- ‘Treasures of the Order’ Exhibition – temporary export of collection of artifacts from Heritage Malta to Moscow
- Temporary Export of historic organ parts from St.Paul’s Anglican Cathedral for restoration purposes to Ireland.

5. CULTURAL HERITAGE RESEARCH

Archaeological Research Projects

Mġarr ix-Xini Valley: Cultural Landscape Project

This project has been ongoing since 2005 and is being carried out by the Superintendence in collaboration with the Xewkija and Sannat Local Councils and independent researchers. The object of this project is to develop a detailed archaeological map of this extensive valley system, as a case study on the development of the Maltese rural landscape from prehistory to the present day.

In 2012, the research team concentrated on two new lines of investigation. An intensive surface survey was started with the detailed mapping of all archaeological and rural features, on a field by field basis. In all approximately 300 tracts along the south slopes of the valley were covered by this year’s survey. A core-sampling project was also carried out to retrieve columns of soil samples from the bottom bed of the valley system. The cores are to be studied together with paleobotanists and sedimentologists from the Università del Salento (Lecce). The soil samples were transported to Italy with the generous assistance of the Italian Military Mission to Malta.

Missione Archeologica Italiana a Malta: Tas-Silġ, Marsaxlokk

At the site of tas-Silġ, the Superintendence collaborated with the Missione Archeologica Italiana to carry out an extensive survey of the complex of ancient underground tunnels and cisterns which are known to exist under this important ancient Punic and Roman sanctuary. This non-invasive survey included the use of a team of experts in speleological exploration and mapping.

European Research Council Advanced Grants

In 2012, the Superintendence made a successful bid to participate in two important international research projects aimed at studying different aspects of Maltese prehistory. Both projects are being funded in full by the Advanced Grants Program of the European Research Council:

- **FRAGSUS (Fragility and sustainability in island environments: cultural change and collapse in prehistory)**

The objectives of FRAGSUS are to: (1) reconstruct the prehistoric environment, vegetation and landscape (2) improve the chronological framework for Malta's prehistory through AMS radiocarbon and other dating methods, (3) assess ancient population history through analysis of human remains, and (4) establish settlement, subsistence and landscape history by assessing the environmental evidence.

Queen's University of Belfast is the institution heading this project, in partnership with a number of different entities involved in scientific research, both locally and in the United Kingdom, including the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage, Heritage Malta, the University of Malta, and the University of Cambridge.

The Superintendence has been allocated €169,153.20 for this project.

The project will officially start in May 2013 and will span five years. During these five years it is planned to undertake a series of fieldwork studies, including coring and analysis of pollens and other samples from archaeological sites, and environmental studies and dating investigation studies which will include the use of GIS from these same sites. Apart from this the human remains excavated from the Xagħra Circle in the late 1980s will be re-organized and studied for specific demographic data. Samples will also be taken to understand diet and other scientific data which will play a part on assessing the prehistoric environment. The project will finally conclude with the publication of the scientific results.

- **The Times of their Lives: changes in the European Neolithic through formal chronological modelling**

The main objective of this five year project includes the construction of precise chronologies for the Neolithic period in Europe. This will be achieved through a combination of expertise in Neolithic archaeology and Bayesian statistical analysis. Besides Malta, the other countries being included in this project are Serbia, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France and Spain.

The project is being coordinated by Cardiff University and English Heritage. Other institutions across Europe are also involved in the project. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage and Heritage Malta are the two Maltese partners involved in this project.

The data being gathered from Malta includes human remains samples and animal remains from the Neolithic period. A total of 150 samples will be analysed for radiocarbon dating and other samples will be analysed for stable isotope analysis.

In 2012 the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage assisted the coordinators in identifying and collecting the samples from the human remains and the animal remains. In 2013 it is forecasted that further samples will be gathered in order to conclude the project. The results of these analysis are to be published in 2014.

Other Major Archaeological Investigations 2012

- **Bulebel Industrial Estate, Żejtun.** Archaeological features were reported by the developer during construction works for the new ACTAVIS factory building. An intensive archaeological investigation uncovered a complex of ancient quarries for franka blocks, as well as masonry remains and four rock-cut tomb chambers. The complex of features appears to have been in use during the Roman Imperial period.
- **Tal-Qares, Mosta** – An archaeological evaluation was carried out by the Superintendence on the request of MEPA as part of the Rationalisation Process for the re-definition of the Development Limits. The area in question is extensive covering an area of approximately 5,871m². The investigation uncovered various rock-cut features and other stratigraphic deposits belonging to a rural occupied in different historical moments from the Bronze Age (1200 BC), through the Early Roman period (Late Third Century BC) and later. The investigation and analysis of this site continued into 2013.
- **Ta' Sawra, Rabat** – A series of different rock-cut features were identified at this building site. These include extensive traces of ancient quarrying, Bronze Age silo pits, cisterns, Bronze Age cart-ruts and ancient agricultural features. These important archaeological remains date from at least 1200BC through to the Byzantine period. The Superintendence requested the developer to amend the MEPA approved plans of the construction to ensure these features are not damaged and, in part, remain visible.
- **Triq San Pawl, Rabat** – During monitoring of a small construction site at this location, evidence of the old medieval Islamic cemetery was detected. Two Arab period graves were excavated, roughly datable to between the 10th and 12th Century. The developer was requested to amend the design of the foundations being built to ensure that the remaining archaeological stratification at this site was not disturbed.
- **Old Doni Street, Rabat** – An archaeological evaluation of this site as part of a MEPA development application identified an ancient urban stratigraphic sequence ranging in date from the Bronze Age (1200BC) to the Roman period (Late III Century BC) and to Late Antiquity. This stratification was documented and protected.
- **Triq Papa Piju V, Rabat** – Extensive traces of ancient tombs were uncovered during the monitoring of two construction projects in this area. In all seven tombs were identified and partly investigated. All of the investigated tombs were found to have been disturbed. The developers amended their approved plans to ensure the full preservation of these remains as requested by the Superintendence.
- **Hal Millieri, Żurrieq** – A long stretch of cart-ruts were identified and investigated during the monitoring of landscaping and resurfacing works at Hal Millieri. Measures were taken to redesign the works in this area in order to protect these archaeological features.
- **Il-Mintna, Mqabba** – The remains of a small Christian catacomb (Late Antiquity) were discovered and documented during landscaping and resurfacing works at the Mintna crossroad, Mqabba. This is the fifth catacomb to be archaeologically identified in this area since the late nineteenth century. The newly discovered tomb was preserved, and a permanent access through a manhole was constructed over its entrance.

- **Triq Xatbet L-Art, Attard** – The discovery of various rock-cut features was reported by the public at this site, in the course of road-trenching works for the construction of a flood-relief culvert. The Superintendence suspended the un-monitored construction work in order to investigate and document these features. It was confirmed that some of these features belonged to ancient rock-cut tombs, similar to an Early Roman tomb discovered in 2010 a few metres uphill in the neighbouring public garden in Triq Hal Warda. Transport Malta was requested to ensure that no more damage would be caused to these features. The investigation of this site is still ongoing.
- **Bur il-Kbir, Siggiewi** – The chamber of a rock-cut tomb was identified during monitoring of construction works at this site. The chamber could not be accessed for further excavation. The developer was instructed to ensure that this archaeological feature is protected.
- **Triq il-Kaċċaturi, Hal Safi** – The remains of an ancient tomb was uncovered during road widening works. Although damaged, measures were taken to ensure that this feature is conserved within the road works project.
- **City Gate, Valletta** – A number of features of historical significance were identified during the ongoing archaeological monitoring of this major project. The Superintendence provides continuous surveillance services of the project to ensure the protection of historical and archaeological remains. Several interventions have required detailed amendments of the project designs. In 2012 the features reported at this site included the following:
 - discovery and excavation of the structural remains of a historic kiln in the area of Casa Lanfreducci;
 - recovery of various stone cannon balls found dumped within the nineteenth-century fills in the ditch beneath St. James Counterguard;
 - opening and documentation of a complex of WWII shelters and water cisterns in St. James Counterguard;
 - uncovering and documentation of a historic ramp structure under the Main Gate;
 - uncovering of part of the eighteenth and nineteenth-century foundations of the Main Gate and bridge structures;
 - uncovering and documentation of a system of service tunnels uncovered in Republic Street, South Street and Zachary Street (both Knight's and British Period).
- **San Salvatore Bastion, Valletta** – During monitoring of construction works for the redevelopment of a public garden, various structural remains were discovered and documented, including: a complex of sixteenth-century vaulted buttressing structures for the main defensive Bastion, the remains of a nineteenth-century Gun Powder Magazine, and a Second World War reinforced concrete structure. The project is being redesigned to preserve these historical remains and ensure public access to them.
- **San Anton Presidential Palace, Attard** – The Superintendence was requested by the Office of the President to assist in supervising the restoration project of the seventeenth-century chapel of Our Lady of Pilar as well as the rehabilitation of the nineteenth-century Russian Chapel both within the grounds of Palazzo San Antonio. As part of the historical research on these structures, the Superintendence supervised and documented the excavation of old air ventilation system underneath the floors of both chapels. These systems have been re-commissioned.
- **Triq Dicembru 13, Marsa** – During the monitored works for the construction of an underpass at this location, a large concentration of human burials was discovered. It was possible to establish that these burials belonged to a Muslim cemetery that had been established at this site during the seventeenth century, and continued to operate up to the mid-

nineteenth century. Also discovered were the remains of a structure which possibly belonged to a mosque. A mosque is documented to have existed at this site at least since the eighteenth-century. Traces of an older – Roman - occupation of the site were also identified. The archaeological investigation of this extensive site is still ongoing. The design of the project is being amended to ensure the conservation of part of the cemetery and of the mosque.

- **Pjazza tad-Dehra, Ghajnsielem** – During monitoring of the works for the reconstruction of an eighteenth-century washhouse at this location, the foundations of this historic structure were uncovered and documented. The entrance to a Second World War shelter was also identified. It was agreed with the developer that both features were to be protected and integrated within the proposed reconstruction.

6. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

European Heritage Days 2012

Preserving Our Cultural Heritage: Works in Progress... was the theme of the 2012 European Heritage Days. This event is held concurrently across Europe under the auspices of the Council of Europe.

The selected theme focused on celebrating the diversity of cultural heritage entities working in Malta. Visitors were encouraged to visit historical properties and appreciate that conservation is a collective responsibility as well as an ongoing commitment. The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage coordinated the event and reported to the Council of Europe on the event.

As part of the campaign, a number of historical buildings were opened to the public free of charge or at reduced fees on 26, 27 and 28 October. Local heritage NGOs Din l-Art Ħelwa, Fondazzjoni Wirt Artna, Għaqda Bajja San Tumas and Wirt Għawdex as well as the Local Councils of Marsaskala and Tarxien participated. Volunteers already involved with NGOs actively participated by guiding visitors around the historical properties. Opening times were also extended beyond the normal schedule on some occasions.

On the 28 October, Heritage Malta opened its doors at their Head Office in Bighi – the former naval hospital now housing the conservation centre. During the Open Day visitors were given a tour of Heritage Malta's conservation labs and an insight into the conservation of paintings, textiles, books and paper, metals and objects. The scientific labs and maintenance workshops were also opened for public viewing.

Around 4,000 persons of different age groups and diverse social backgrounds participated in the activities. The majority of visitors were mainly young adults with children, or adults above the age of 55. Local visitor numbers were more numerous than foreign visitors.

Participation in a One-day Symposium on the 'Żejtun Roman Villa'

Under the title of *Żejtun Roman Villa Symposium*, local heritage NGO Wirt iż-Żejtun held a day-long seminar on the 6 of October 2012 during which thirteen lectures were given to the general public who attended numerously to the event. The lectures were aimed to present the results of ongoing archaeological investigation at the site of the Żejtun Roman Villa and also increase public appreciation of the cultural heritage resources found within the Żejtun Local Council.

The lectures were given by a number of scholars and practitioners working in the cultural heritage sector. Besides the Superintendence, other entities involved in the event included the University of Malta (Department of Classics and Archaeology, Department of the Built Environment, Department

of Biology, Institute for Tourism and Culture), Heritage Malta and Din l-Art Helwa. The lectures presented the results of historical and archaeological research on the Villa site, and also covered issues related to the conservation and management of this site. In its presentation the Superintendence gave a broad overview of the archaeological heritage of Żejtun, and also presented more detailed results obtained from three specific recent archaeological investigations, namely the Barrani Catacombs (1993), the tomb cluster at Tal-Ħotba (2008) and the ancient quarry and tomb cluster investigated in Bulebel (2012).

The acts of the symposium were subsequently published in full by Wirt iż-Żejtun (Abela, R. ed. 2012. *The Zejtun Roman Villa : Research, Conservation, Management*. Wirt iż-Zejtun Publications.).

International Heritage Photographic Experience 2012 (IHPE)

The International Heritage Photographic Experience is an annual photographic competition intended for students up to 21 years of age. In 2012 the Superintendence participated in the Seventeenth IHPE organized by the Generalitat de Catalunya's Department of Culture, on behalf of the Council of Europe. The event was held in the Palace of Europe in December 2012. The theme was 'Heritage and Landscape'. Malta participated with two 15 year old photographers. Their work was entitled 'Culture meets Modern' and 'Mdina's Cultural Mix'. Both photographs are published on the Superintendence website: <http://www.culturalheritage.gov.mt/page.asp?p=21306&l=1>

7. STATE OF THE HERITAGE REPORT 2011

The State of the Heritage Report for 2011 was published in May 2012 by the Superintendence of Cultural Heritage. The main findings were presented to the public during the National Forum for Cultural Heritage on 17 May 2012. The Report can be freely downloaded from the Superintendence website and augments the present annual report.

The State of the Heritage Report presents annual trends in the cultural heritage sector. Comparisons with previous years are carried out to identify changes in general trends. Particular attention is given in the report to activities organised by cultural heritage entities and Local Councils for the general public and schools. Amongst other aspects the report also monitors progress made in the development of management plans as well as the adoption of new or revised standards and guidelines by cultural heritage entities. Annual figures relating to student admission and graduates at MCAST and the University of Malta are also collected.

The 2011 report also dedicated attention to provide quality information on the scheduling process. Assisted graphically with various charts, the report presented progress made in this area since 1994. A section in the report also provided quantitative information on development related cases treated annually by MEPA.

The Superintendence of Cultural Heritage commenced discussions with the National Statistics Office on the collection of cultural statistics from Local Councils. Discussions focused on improving the data-collection strategy and the sharing of micro-data collected for the State of the Heritage Report with the National Statistics Office.

8. POLICY DEVELOPMENT

National Strategy for Cultural Heritage

The Superintendence for Cultural Heritage was requested to provide technical assistance to the Committee of Guarantee in the preparation of the National Strategy for Cultural Heritage. A draft for public consultation was drawn up and circulated among stakeholders. During this exercise, the 2006 Strategy document was evaluated. The revised strategic objectives listed in the Draft Strategy reflect the needs of the cultural heritage sector as perceived by various operators and general public, and complements the National Cultural Policy 2011.

The Strategy proposes an action plan with measurable objectives, indicators, time-frames and responsible entities. The document also proposes a strategy to effectively monitor implementation by the Committee of Guarantee.

The draft for consultation was presented to the Minister and subsequently launched during the National Forum for Cultural Heritage in May 2012. The National Forum served as a platform for public consultation during which reviews of the document were formally presented and discussions ensued. As part of the review process, stakeholders were invited to offer their comments and feedback on the draft for consultation.

Dr. Anthony PACE

Superintendent of Cultural Heritage