

POSTAL DIARY

1ST JANUARY – 10TH MAY 2022

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18th January

MaltaPost today informed the public that the letterbox located in Triq ix-Xatt, Marsaskala, has been permanently removed.

The public was advised that if it so wishes it may use the letterbox located at Triq Sant Antnin or the one located in Pjazza Dun Tarcis Agius as close alternatives.

26th January

It was announced that the Sub Post Office at 'D Spiral' Stationery, located at 'D-Spiral', Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, will be temporarily closed until Thursday 3rd February.

During this period, the public was advised to use the postal services provided from the Birkirkara Post Office located at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 as a close substitute.

28th January

The letterbox located in Triq Censu Xerri, Sliema has been temporarily removed. In view of this the public was advised that it may wish to use the letterbox located at Triq Tigne', Sliema in its stead.

11th February

It was announced that on the 12th February, MaltaPost will be issuing another set in the series "Maltese Buses". The series illustrates Malta's iconic coloured buses of past years, which were characterised by their high level of customisation and detailing. Individual owner-drivers would add their personal touch throughout the vehicle. They would add chrome accessories to their 'trucks', paint messages using the elaborate local 'tberfil' calligraphy, hang objects associated with specific village patron saints and of course, horseshoes for luck!

The four stamps in the set will be issued in a sheet of ten stamps format, with each stamp measuring 44mm x 31mm, having a comb perforation of 14.0 x 13.9 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 118mm x 185mm and were produced by Printex Ltd through the offset process. The issue consists of 500,000 of the €0.30 stamp, 40,000 of the €0.51 stamp, 48,000 of the

€0.59 stamp and 80,000 of the €1.00 stamp. The stamp set was designed in-house by MaltaPost based on photographs by Frans Galea, Richard Stedall, Manuel Cutajar and Leo Grech.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.1/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “MALTESE BUSES” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/12-02-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the front of a Maltese bus positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 420.



25th February

MaltaPost today informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be temporarily closed on Monday 28th February until Wednesday 2nd March.

On these days the public was advised that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Bormla Post Office located at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

1st March

MaltaPost informed the public that as a result of the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the increasing number of European countries banning Russian airlines from their skies, all postal services to Russia are now suspended until further notice.

All postal items destined to Ukraine will now be diverted through Poland. The Polish mail operator will handle the exchange of these postal items, both imports and exports, at their offices located close to the Ukrainian borders.

2nd March

MaltaPost customers were informed that all outbound mail services to Russia and Belarus are being suspended until further notice due to unavailable means of transport.

9th March

MaltaPost informed that the letterbox located in Dawret It-Torri, Santa Luċija has been temporarily removed and advised the public that it may wish to use the letterbox located in Triq Il-Lellux, Santa Luċija as a close alternative.

11th March

Today, MaltaPost launched the 2021 Year Pack; which includes all stamp sets issued during 2021 in mint condition. The sets included are: Malta Healthcare Heroes - COVID-19, Act Now United Nations Campaign For Individual Action, 200th Anniversary Death Of Napoleon Bonaparte, Europa 2021 - Endangered National Wildlife Of Malta, SEPAC - Historical Maps Of Malta, 100th Anniversary of the Birth Of HRH Prince Philip - The Duke Of Edinburgh, EUROMED - Handcraft Jewellery In The Mediterranean, Olympic Games 2020, Maltese Festa Series V, Maltese Buses, 100th Anniversary of the Malta Senate And Legislative Assembly and Christmas 2021. The Year Pack is presented in a specially designed folder which includes all technical details related to all the 2021 stamp issues.

In its second media communication for the day, MaltaPost notified the public that a commemorative hand stamp will be issued to commemorate Richard England's Exhibition at Il-Ħaġar Museum in Victoria Gozo. This hand stamp will be in use on Saturday 12th March at the Victoria Post Office, located at 5, Triq Sir Adrian Dingli, Rabat VCT 1441.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed "RICHARD ENGLAND AT IL-ĦAĠAR" along the outside bordering the ring, and "* MALTAPOST – VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA *" bordering the ring on the inner side. The issue date "12-03-22" in a straight line is to be found below an outline image depicting the façade of Victoria's St. George's Basilica, the parish in and building next to which the "Il-Ħaġar Museum" is located.



24th March

In commemoration of the programmed visit to the Maltese Islands by Pope Francis, MaltaPost announced that on the 2nd April it will be issuing a stamp in miniature sheet format to mark the event.

The papal visit was announced by the office of the Holy See on 10th February 2022, the feast of St. Paul, quoting the verse "They showed us unusual kindness" from the bible. This refers to the hospitality extended to the shipwrecked apostle Paul in AD.60 by the Maltese; also applicable nowadays in respect of those migrants who traverse the Mediterranean on perilous journeys in rickety overloaded "boats" in search of a safe haven in Europe.

The stamp measures 31 mm x 44 mm, and has a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0. It was printed on paper bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The miniature sheet

itself measures 120 mm x 80 mm and was produced through the offset process by Printex Ltd. The issue, designed in-house by MaltaPost, consists of 30,000 miniature sheets with each sheet bearing a face value of €5.00. The miniature sheet will be also reproduced in a metal plate version, which will be housed within a black velvet foldable stand.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No.2/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “POPE FRANCIS IN MALTA” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring.



The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUG/02-04-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting the Pope’s Mitre and staff positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 421. It is to be noted that the facsimile hand stamp depicted on



the said bulletin (right) does not fully match the actual design finally used for the postal branch hand stamps (left) as it varies slightly and is also missing the words “JUM IL-ĦRUG”

In addition to the standard items, three official occasion cards bearing numbers 60, 61 and 62 were also issued by the Philatelic Bureaus. Besides in the mint version, the philatelic bureau also issued them cancelled with different commemorative hand stamps depending on the event commemorated on the respective card. All views feature one of the different venues which Pope Francis visited on his tour of the islands and in which he held singular events during his visit.

The first highlight in the programme was the crossing over to the island of Gozo which took place in the evening on Saturday 2nd April. This was marked by the use of a single-ring circular hand stamp inscribed “POPE FRANCIS IN MALTA – TA’ PINU SHRINE” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – GHARB, GOZO - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is a drawing of the Ta’ Pinu Basilica beneath which was placed the issue date in a



straight line “02-04-22”. This cancellor was used both at the Għarb Post Office and on occasion card number 59. The Gozo Philatelic Society too issued a Card in a limited edition of 100 to commemorate this event. This card (GPS No. 152) is franked with a personalised se-tenant stamp and the Title ‘POPE FRANCIS VISIT TO GOZO’ is printed in gold.

The second highlight of the Pope’s visit commemorated was that to Saint Paul’s Grotto in Rabat, Malta which took place early in the morning of Sunday 3rd April. The single-ring circular hand stamp marking this event is inscribed “POPE FRANCIS IN MALTA ST. PAUL’S BASILICA - RABAT” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *



bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the torso of the statue of Saint Paul, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “02-04-22”. This cancellor was only used philatelically by the MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau on occasion card number 60 and on philatelic covers sold to hand stamp collectors.

The third major event commemorated was the Holy Mass, also celebrated in the morning of 3rd April, his second and final day of the visit. This was marked by a single-ring circular hand stamp inscribed “POPE FRANCIS IN MALTA – THE GRANARIES, FLORIANA” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA *



5th April

MaltaPost announced that the €0.30 stamp of the Buses 2022 Issue has been reprinted. The reprint consists of 600,000 stamps, in sheets of ten stamps bearing sheet numbers 050001-110000, both numbers included. The stamps measure 44.0 mm x 31.0 mm with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and have been printed through the offset process by Printex Limited on watermarked paper bearing Maltese Crosses. In the media communication announcing the reprint it was stated that as from Wednesday 06th April, the reprinted stamps would be made available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo. However, as it has now become customary when

it comes to the issue of reprints, disappointingly for collectors the great majority of Post Offices did not have these stamps in stock on the advised release date, rendering it impossible to make FDI covers from the individual PO branches.

14th April

In three separate media communication releases, MaltaPost informed the public that several Sub Post Offices will be temporarily closed during the month of April. The first communication noted that the Sub Post Office at ‘Step in’, Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300, will be closed between Saturday 16th and Monday 25th April.

On these days the public was advised that it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Bormla Post Office at Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

In a similar media communication release, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Many Things’ Stationery, Triq il-Knisja il-Qadima, Siġġiewi SGW 1704, will be closed between Friday 15th and Wednesday 20th April.

On these days, the public was advised to use the postal services provided from the Żebbuġ Post Office located at Triq Sciortino, Żebbuġ ŻBG 1962.

In the third, MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office located at ‘Electroit Stationery’ at Fredrick Meample Square, Qormi QRM 1011, will be closed between Thursday 14th and Saturday 16th April.

In this case, on these days the public was advised that it may use the postal services provided from the Qormi Post Office located at 343, Triq il-Vitorja, Qormi QRM 2504.

18th April

MaltaPost notified that on Monday 18th April a commemorative Se - Tenant stamp and a Commemorative Cover were issued by the Philatelic Bureau to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Award of The George Cross to Malta. In addition to these philatelic mementos, a commemorative hand stamp was also commissioned to cancel purely philatelic products related to the event issued by the Bureau, all of which could only be obtained through the placing of orders directly from the Philatelic Bureau at MaltaPost.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “AWARD OF THE GEORGE CROSS TO MALTA – 80TH ANNIVERSARY” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – PHILATELIC BUREAU



- MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand stamp is an outline drawing of the George Cross, set above the Siege Bell Monument, beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “18-04-22”.

22nd April

Today MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Needs Stationery’, located at 1, Triq il-Vajrita, Marsaskala MSK 3306 will be temporarily closed on Saturday 23rd April.

On this day, Marsaskala residents were advised that they may wish to use the postal services provided from the Marsaskala Post Office, located at Triq Sant’ Antnin, Marsaskala MSK 9059.

26th April

It was notified that the Sub Post Office at ‘Willand Bargain Store’, Triq Dun M Mifsud, Santa Lucija SLC 1440, will be temporarily closed on Thursday 28th April.

The public was informed that on this day it may wish to use the postal services provided from the Post Office located at the Paola Civic Center, Pjazza Antoine De Paule, Paola PLA 1266.

29th April

MaltaPost today notified that a commemorative hand stamp will be used to celebrate the Public Service Week. This hand stamp will be in use on Monday 2nd May only at the Malta Postal Museum in Valetta.

The single-ring circular hand stamp is inscribed “ĠINGĦA ĠHAS-SERVIZZ PUBBLIKU 2022” along the outside bordering the ring, and “* MALTAPOST – POSTAL MUSEUM - MALTA *” bordering the ring on the inner side. At the centre of the hand Stamp is a drawing of the public services logo beneath which was placed the issue date in a straight line “02-05-22”.



5th May

MaltaPost announced that on 9th May, it will join other European postal administrations by way of the issue of a stamp set in the Europa Series. Malta’s stamps depict two popular local legends – one relating to Calypso Cave and the other to the cave located at Speranza Valley in Mosta. The stamps were designed by Fabio Agius, the co-creator of Wicked Comics and a long-standing MaltaPost staff member who also designed the popular “Peppi Pustier” postman character.

The stamp designs are a marked departure from more traditional ones and focus on the flat bold colouring so typical of comic art.

The theme “Stories & Myths” was selected by PostEurop - an association that since 1993 represents the interests of European postal operators. It was then that PostEurop assumed responsibility for issuing EUROPA stamps. The Malta stamps will be issued in sheets of eleven stamps, each stamp measuring 31mm x 44mm, with a comb perforation of 13.9 x 14.0 and bearing the Maltese Cross watermark. The sheets themselves measure 150 mm x 160 mm and were produced by Printex Ltd



through the offset process. The total issue consists of 44,000 of the €0.59 stamp and 46,200 of the €2.00 stamp. The €0.59 stamp will also be Malta’s entry for the ‘2022 EUROPA Online Stamp Contest’. This is an annual online event where EUROPA stamp designs from across Europe compete for the best entry of the year’s Europa stamp releases.

MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand stamp to cancel the stamps on their first day of issue (on FDC No.3/2022). The single-ring hand stamp is inscribed “EUROPA 2022 – STORIES AND MYTHS” along the outside bordering the ring and “* MALTAPOST ----- - MALTA *” on the lower inner side of the ring. The words and issue date “JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/09-05-22” in straight lines are to be found below an outline image depicting a Corinthian column set above the bow of a boat sporting “The eye of Osiris”, positioned at the top centre of the hand stamp. MaltaPost’s Philatelic Bureau featured the issue in its Stamp Bulletin No. 422. The Gozo Philatelic Society, as has by now become customary when themes with a Gozitan connection come up, has issued an attractive post card in a limited edition of 100 individually numbered cards.

10th May

The public was today informed that the letterbox located at Dawret it-Torri, Santa Lucija is now back in service. (*Reference entry dated 9th March 2022*)