

Postal Diary

2nd December 2014 – 17th March 2015

by
John V. De Battista

5th December

As announced on the 28th November, MaltaPost issued an occasion hand stamp “Milied f’Għawdex” at the Victoria P.O. The hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 05-12-14” in the outer ring, and “MILIED F’GHAWDEX” in the inner ring above an outline image of the Holy Family with three hills and a star in the background.



For this occasion, the Gozo Philatelic Society issued a limited edition of one hundred commemorative cards (No. 99) franked by the Christmas 2014 €0.26 value stamp and cancelled with this hand stamp.

9th December

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost issued a Company Announcement which reads as follows:

“The Board of Directors of MaltaPost (the Company) has approved the attached Preliminary Statement of Annual Results as extracted from the Company’s Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2014 that were audited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers and approved by the Board of Directors on 9 December 2014. The Board resolved that these audited Financial Statements be submitted for approval of the shareholders at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting scheduled for 16 January 2015.

The Board of Directors further resolved to recommend for the approval of the Annual General Meeting:

- 1. The payment of a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share.*
- 2. The option to shareholders of receiving the dividend either in cash or by the issue of new shares. The Attribution Price, at which the number of new shares to be issued will be determined, has been established at €1.16 per nominal €0.25 share.*

Shareholders on the Company’s share register at the Central Securities Depository of the Malta Stock Exchange as at close of business on the 17 December 2014 will

receive notice of the Annual General Meeting together with the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 September 2014.

The final dividend, if approved at the Annual General Meeting, will be paid on 30 January 2015 to shareholders on the Company's share register at the Central Securities Depository of the Malta Stock Exchange as at close of business on 17 December 2014.

*Graham A. Fairclough
Company Secretary*

15th December

The *Malta Philately Newsletter* issue 20/2014 released by the Philatelic Bureau informed that The Malta Study Circle and MaltaPost have jointly published a revised and enhanced edition of the book titled "*Malta in World War I – Photographic Postcards*".

The publication records the life of Allied Forces and Prisoners of War in Malta during World War I.

This edition coincides with a set of commemorative postage stamps issued on 7th November, depicting Bighi and Floriana hospitals as well as HMHS Rewa, which transported to Malta thousands of wounded from the battlefields of Gallipoli. The three hundred sixty-eight page publication, which is in hardback format and includes contributions by experts in the field of Malta postal history, was to be available for sale as from the 16th December 2014.

17th December

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Step in', Misraħ ir-Rebħa, Birgu BRG 1300 was to be closed for business between the 20th December and 7th January 2015, both days included. The public was advised that if it so wishes, it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Bormla Post Office situated in Block No 14, Flat No. 12, Fuq San Pawl, Bormla BML 1910.

19th December

MaltaPost informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'Fleet Stationers', Triq Testaferrata, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402 was to be temporarily closed for business on the 26th December 2014. The public was advised that if it so wishes, it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Gżira Sub Post Office situated at 'Squire Stationery', 85, Triq Manoel De Vilhena, Gżira, GZR 1016.

It also informed the public that the Sub Post Office at 'C@C Stationery', Trejjet

Fleur de Lys, Santa Venera SVR 1580 will also be temporarily closed for business between the 2nd and 6th January 2015, both days included. In this instance the public was directed that it so wishes it may avail itself of the services provided from the Birkirkara Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 or from the following Sub Post Offices:

‘Landau Stationery’ - 84, Triq Dun Gejtano Mannarino, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

‘Oreana Stationery’ - 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532.

‘D Spiral’ - Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691.

Another temporary closure advised was that of the Sub Post Office located at 6, ‘Welcome Bazaar’, Misraħ Frenċ Abela, Dingli DGL 1081 which MaltaPost informed that it will be closed for business on the 26th December 2014, 2nd and 3rd January 2015. With regards to this Sub Post Office, the public was advised that if it so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the Rabat Post Office situated at Ċentru Ċiviku, Misraħ il-Parroċċa, Rabat RBT 1230.

The final Press Release issued on this day concerned the Sub Post Office situated at ‘D Spiral’, Triq il-Vitorja, Birkirkara BKR 2691, which MaltaPost informed that it will be temporarily closed for business between the 26th December 2014 and the 3rd January 2015, both days included.

The public was advised that in this instance it may wish to avail itself of postal services provided from the Birkirkara Post Office situated at 58, Triq il-Wied, Birkirkara BKR 9013 or from the following Sub Post Offices:

‘Landau Stationery’ - 84, Triq Dun Gejtano Mannarino, Birkirkara BKR 9085.

‘Oreana Stationery’ - 94, Triq L. Casolani, Birkirkara BKR 4532.

22nd December

Today MaltaPost issued four Press Releases. In its first press release it encouraged the public to vote for the most attractive stamp in the Small European Postal Administration Cooperation (SEPAC) competition which closes on the 31st December 2014. The theme chosen for this year’s SEPAC issues is ‘Flowers’ and the participating states have presented beautiful stamps illustrating flowers from their respective country. Malta’s entry carries a denomination of €0.59 and illustrates the Wavy Leaf Mullein. This flower grows in the Maltese countryside particularly on disturbed ground and flowers in late May and early June.

The stamp illustrating the Wavy Leaf Mullein bears the official SEPAC logo and forms part of the SEPAC joint postal administrations stamp issue folder for the year. SEPAC members include Aland Post, Faroe Islands Post, Gibraltar Philatelic

Bureau, Post Greenland, Guernsey Post, Iceland Post, Isle of Man Post, Jersey Post, Liechtenstein Post Corporation, MaltaPost, Monaco Post, San Marino Post, Luxembourg Post and Vatican Post.

The second press release informed the public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the St. Julians Post Office will open between 08.30 and 13.00 on the 24th and 31st December 2014. The public was informed that if it so wishes it can avail itself of postal services provided from:

“Malton”, 7, Triq Censu Scerri, Tas-Sliema, SLM 3062.

“S.G.S. Stationery”, 2, Triq Felice Borg, San Gwann SGN 2040.

MaltaPost also informed the general public that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa will be open between 08.00 and 16.00 on the 24th and 31st December 2014 and that the last collection of mail from all letter boxes was to be effected at 13.00.

In the fourth and final press release, MaltaPost informed the general public that by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, all Post offices will be closed, and there will be no collection or delivery of mail on Friday 26th December 2014 and 2nd January 2015. Normal service was to resume on Saturday 27th December 2014 and 3rd January 2015 respectively.

24th December

MaltaPost announced the winners of its student competition held during the University of Malta Freshers’ Week 2014. The lucky winners are Yanika Stafrace, Dylan Camilleri, Bernice Camilleri, Naomi Brincat, Hannah Flynn, Vanessa Vella and Nicole Sammut. Ms Stafrace won the HP ElitePad 900 which was kindly presented to her by Kinetix. Mr Camilleri was awarded a €100 SendOn voucher while each of the other five won a €10 SendOn voucher.

The gifts were awarded during an event which was held at the Post Office which is located on the University Campus; a Post Office which also offers a range of other services apart from the traditional postal services one is accustomed to receiving at a Post Office.

08th January

MaltaPost p.l.c informed the public that the Sub Post Office at ‘Midas’, 34, Triq Ix-Xatt, Marsascala MSK 2113 was to be temporarily closed for business on Saturday 10th January 2015. The public was advised that if so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Żabbar Post Office - Ċentru Ċiviku, Triq il-Kunvent, Haż-Żabbar ŻBR 1351.

Żejtun Post Office - 37, Triq San Luċjan, Iż-Żejtun ŻTN 1834.

In another press release the general public was informed that, by agreement with the Malta Communications Authority, the Parcel Office at the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa was to be open between 08.00 and 16.00 on Friday 16th January 2015, and that the last collection of mail from all letter boxes was to be effected at 13.00.

16th January

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost issued the following Company Announcement under the signature of the company's secretary G.A. Fairclough:

MaltaPost (the Company) announces that the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on Friday 16 January 2015, approved all the resolutions on the Agenda viz:-

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

- 1. To receive and approve the Audited Financial Statements and consider the Report of the Directors and of the Auditors, for the year ended 30 September 2014.*
- 2. To declare a final ordinary net dividend of €0.04 per nominal €0.25 share, representing a final net payment of €1,411,216 either in cash or by the issue of new shares at the option of each individual shareholder.*
- 3. To re-appoint as auditors Pricewaterhouse Coopers, 78 Mill Street Qormi QRM 3101 and to authorise the Board of Directors to fix their remuneration.*
- 4. To appoint Directors in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company.*
- 5. To establish at €30,000 the maximum annual aggregate Directors' remuneration for the holding of their office.*

Following the above Annual General Meeting the Board of Directors of MaltaPost is made up as follows:

Mr. J. Said (Chairman); Mr. J. Bozzino; Mr. D. Stellini; Mr. A. Theuma; Mr. D. Attard

19th January

In recognition of the importance that internet shopping has taken in its customers' life, as well as to offer added convenience and flexibility; MaltaPost announced that as from today it will be increasing its collection points to forty-one outlets. Customers will now be able to pick up mail items from an additional five Sub Post Offices, namely:

Dingli - Welcome Bazaar, 6, Frenç Abela Square, Dingli DGL 1081.

Ghaxaq - Marchams Stationery, 4, Wesgħa Bir id-Deheb, Ghaxaq GXQ 1651.

Kalkara - Troy DVD Rentals, 4A, Arcisqof Gonzi Square, Kalkara KKR 1513.

St Venera - C&C Stationery, Fleur-De Lys Junction, Santa Venera SVR 1582.

Ta' Xbiex - Fleet Stationers, Testaferrata Street, Ta' Xbiex XBX 1402.

Previous to the addition of these new Sub Post Offices, customers within these localities would have had to visit a Post Office outside their locality to collect their mail items. The decision to add the five Sub Post Offices follows a successful pilot with the Sub Post Office in Gharghur. Customers living in these localities can now benefit from an increase in convenience and flexibility while others living in other localities may also choose to transfer any mail items that would have been previously undelivered to one of these Sub Post Offices.

27th January

MaltaPost announced that on 4th February it was issuing a set of three stamps to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Yalta conference held in the Crimea in 1945. The meeting, which brought together the heads of government of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union represented by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Premier Joseph Stalin was intended to discuss Europe's reorganisation following the end of World War II.

Prior to the conference, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed to meet in Malta for preliminary discussions, and as Churchill famously declared in his message to the U.S President "No more let us falter! From Malta to Yalta! Let nobody alter!" This was voiced in the light of the many options put forward prior to the final decision being made for the meeting to be held in Yalta.

The stamps carry a face value of €1.00 each and reproduce photographs taken previous to and at the end of this important event. The designs are by Joseph Said and the stamps were issued in *tete beche* format in sheets of nine, composed of three identical rows each bearing a stamp from each design. The stamps measure 35mm x 35mm, and have a perforation of 13.75 x 13.75 (comb). The print run, executed by Printex Ltd on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, consists of 27,000 stamps of each design. MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 1/2015). The hand stamp was inscribed "* MALTAPOST * ----- - MALTA/70TH ANNIVERSARY/YALTA CONFERENCE/JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/04-02-15" and also included an outline



image of Montgomery House. In addition to the standard philatelic material format issues, the set was also issued in a “Special” folder format. Besides a complete sheet in mint format, the folder included a special commemorative MaltaPost cover franked by a personalized stamp with the label being a picture of Churchill accompanied by high ranking officials on board ship, cancelled with the above occasion hand stamp. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 329.

2nd February

MaltaPost p.l.c informed the public that the Sub Post Office at C&C, Fleur-De-Lys Junction Santa Venera SVR 1582, was to be temporarily closed for business between the 6th and the 9th February. The public was advised that if so wishes it may avail itself of postal services provided from the following Post Offices:

Hamrun Post Office -18, Triq il-Ferrovija HMR 1900.

Birkirkara Post Office - 58, Triq il-Wied BKR 9013.

4th February

MaltaPost announced that it had been informed by Ukrposhta, the national postal operator of Ukraine, that owing to the current situation in Ukraine there are difficulties in delivering mail to addressees residing in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. This follows previous instructions which had suspended mail delivery to Crimea and Sevastapol (*see entry for 7th May 2014*).

It was also announced that customers wishing to send mail items to these regions can still do so by sending them as general mail (Poste Restante) addressed to post offices in localities controlled by Ukrainian government authorities. Poste Restante is a service where post offices within an area, in this case within the area controlled by Ukrainian government authorities, hold mail until the addressee calls for it. It was highlighted that it is important customers wishing to send mail through this method should include details with regards to the addressee’s full name (last name, first name, patronymic); name of locality controlled by Ukrainian government authorities; name of district; name of region; name of postal facility of destination (post office receiving mail); postcode; country of destination and addressee’s landline or mobile telephone number on the cover of postal items to facilitate notice to the addressee of the item’s arrival. It was also recommended that senders pre-inform addressees about the dispatch of such items and also agree on the post office which will be receiving the mail. MaltaPost informed that it will be keeping the public updated with any developments and communications that it receives from Ukrposhta related to this issue.

9th February

MaltaPost announced that on 14th February it was issuing the second set in the Maltese Flora series.

The set, which consists of three stamps, shows reproductions lifted from photographs taken by Guido Bonnet. The €0.26 value illustrates the Smooth Goatsbeard, the €0.59 the Crown Anemone while the €1.16 the Friar's Cowl. The stamps were issued in sheets of ten which also included a tab showing a photo of the flower represented in the sheet. They all measure 20mm x 38mm, and have a perforation of 13.6 x 14.0 (comb). The print run, executed by Printex Ltd on Maltese Crosses watermarked paper, consists of 2,520,000 stamps of the €0.26 value, 504,000 of the €0.59 and 27,000 of the €1.16. MaltaPost prepared an occasion hand postmark to cancel the stamps on the first day of issue (on FDC No. 2/2015). The hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * ----- - MALTA / MALTESE FLORA/SERIES II/ JUM IL-ĦRUĠ/14-02-15” below an outline image of a Crown Anemone flower. The MaltaPost Philatelic Bureau featured these stamps in Stamp Bulletin No. 330.



11th February

Pursuant to the Malta Financial Services Authority Listing Rules, MaltaPost issued a Company Announcement covering the period 1st October 2014 to 11th February 2015. Of particular importance is the following extract:

“For the period under review, MaltaPost registered an improvement in its financial performance when compared to that of the corresponding period last year and which is in line with expectations. The Company’s turnover registered an increase which was, in the main, due to new service offerings and the revision of certain tariffs, which came into effect on 1st January 2014. However, the impact of this increase on profitability was partially offset by higher staff costs and inflationary pressures on operating costs. Letter Mail volumes continued on their long-term downward trend while parcels and packets registered growth, especially over the Christmas period.”

25th February

MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq F. Ximenes, Salina, Naxxar has been temporary removed for an indefinite period due to road works in the area. The nearest letterbox is situated at Triq il-Wileġ, San Pawl il-Baħar.

26th February

MaltaPost announced that it was to participate in the Munich International Stamp Exhibition

to be held between the 5th and 7th March 2015. The public was informed that an Occasion Card (Number 38), a Personalised Stamp / Cover and a Special Occasion hand stamp will be issued to mark this event.



The Occasion Card shows a picture of the Crown Anemone and also bears an **imprinted** image of the €0.59 stamp from the Maltese Flora 2015 set, while the Personalised Stamp Cover is illustrated with an image of the same flower next to which is the Munich stamp exhibition logo. It is to be noted that the date printed on some of the official covers, released before the error was spotted, incorrectly shows the event as being held on 8-10 May 2014. The personalized stamp label bears the official logo of the fair, superimposed on a background composed of Maltese Crosses in shades of light grey. The occasion commemorative hand stamp was inscribed “* MALTAPOST * PHILATELIC BUREAU - MALTA 5-7.03.15” in the outer ring, and “INTERNATIONALE/BRIEFMARKEN-BÖRSE/MÜNCHEN/2015” in the inner ring below an image of the exhibition logo. The Occasion Card was available for sale in mint and cancelled condition as from Thursday 5th March 2015 from all Post Offices, while the Personalized Stamp / Cover and occasion hand stamp could be purchased only from the Philatelic Bureau.

3rd March

MaltaPost announced that the Hon. Prime Minister, Dr Joseph Muscat accompanied by the Minister for Education and Employment, the Hon. Mr. Evarist Bartolo, and the ETC Chairman, Mr. Clyde Caruana the day before had paid a visit to the MaltaPost Head Office in Marsa in connection with the Youth Guarantee Programme in which MaltaPost had agreed to participate. This programme offers employers the opportunity to evaluate potential employees prior to their engagement, thus facilitating prospective recruitment. MaltaPost gave sixteen young workers the opportunity to experience work within the company for a period of twelve consecutive weeks and subsequently retained a number of these workers at the end of their work exposure, for a further traineeship period of six months.

6th March

MaltaPost informed the public that it will be undertaking an IT infrastructural upgrade on Sunday 8th March 2015 between 08:00am and 11:00am; in view of which the company’s website (including all online data) would temporarily not be accessible for the public.

In another Press Release, MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq in-Naxxar, Hal Lija has been closed for an indefinite period due to road works in the area. The nearest letterbox is situated in Triq il-Mużika, Iklin.

In the final Press Release issued on this day, MaltaPost informed the public that the letterbox situated in Triq F. Ximenes, Salina, Naxxar which had been temporarily removed due to construction works (*see entry of 25th February*) is now back in service after having been relocated next to the Coastline Hotel gate.

13th March

MaltaPost held a blood donation event at the Blood Donation Unit in Gwardamangia. This was a first time experience for most of the staff participating in this event. The activity formed part of MaltaPost's Corporate Social Responsibility programme. "Donating blood makes you feel great knowing you are making a difference. The National Blood Transfusion Service continuously appeals to the general public as there is a great demand for blood of all types. Being an active part of the Maltese community, MaltaPost feels duty bound to lend a helping hand and contribute where possible. I would therefore like to thank all our members of staff who contributed towards this good cause." said Stefania Camilleri, Head of HR at MaltaPost.

17th March

MaltaPost notified that for the occasion of 'L-Imsallab fi Triqatna', the play re-enacting the passion of Christ through the streets of Victoria, Gozo, a special occasion hand postmark will be used on Saturday 21st March 2015 at the Victoria Post Office. The hand stamp was inscribed "* MALTAPOST * VICTORIA, GOZO - MALTA 21-03-15" in the outer ring, and "L-IMSALLAB FI TRIQATNA/2000 2015" in the inner ring, encircling an outline image of the Holy Cross.



Needed information for research purposes
any entires in possession of members
of mail from Sicily to Malta
January 1859 to January 1863.

Anybody wanting to sell such material please contact

Dr. A. Bonnici

on email: abonnici@maltanet.net