

The Friggieri Family Newsletter

Editorial

When I started producing this newsletter in 1999, it was my intention to publish an issue every quarter. Needless to say,

I have not met that objective and after a gap of nine months since the last edition have updated my Desktop Publishing software and started work on this, the ninth Family newsletter.

Although the IT market has lost its buoyancy since the dot com crash, I have been fortunate to maintain continuity of employment. In November, the assignment with Powergen in Nottingham completed successfully and shortly afterwards I started a new contract with a credit card processing company based in Basildon. Lorna has decided to reduce her working week to three days to enable her to focus on other interests. Having just completed an intensive course in Anatomy and Physiology she has enrolled on courses in Indian Head Massage and Reflexology at Dunstable college. Last summer, our eldest son Robert graduated from Leeds University with a B.A. Honours in Broadcast Journalism and shortly afterwards joined some of his friends sailing on the Norwegian fjords. He has yet to secure a job in his chosen field. Sean has settled well into life at Southampton University but came home during the Christmas recess. Alan has been working



hard in his final year at Aylesbury Grammar. In August he joined me for a long weekend of boating on the Norfolk Broads (see photo). In recent years, I have developed an interest in sailing and every May and September join some of my friends for a weekend of yachting on the Solent. Sailing is very physical but at the same time quite relaxing. In August, Lorna and I flew to Prague for a short break. Prague is a cultural delight with an abundance of classical music, diverse architecture and gourmet restaurants. At the end of October, Lorna visited family and friends in Malta. I had to give that trip a miss as my project was at a critical stage and I had already taken a week off at the beginning of the month to go to Spain to inspect progress on the villa that we are building on the Costa Calida. Our Silver Wedding anniversary in November coincided with an

AMCOE function at the Imperial Hotel in London. My friend Herbert Magri-Overend is the event organizer and unbeknown to us had placed us on the top table with Maltese High Commissioner Dr George Bonello Du Puis and his wife. Christmas was a quiet family affair at home. On Christmas morning, I always

prepare an early breakfast of smoked salmon with scrambled eggs on toast, washed down with chilled champagne. Afterwards we open the presents and then call our close friends and relatives. Lorna serves up a traditional turkey dinner at about 3pm and inevitably we all over-indulge. Likewise, we did not do anything special on New Year's Eve - just stayed home and watched TV.

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From my Photograph Album.....



This photograph was taken a few days after my sister Suzette had her second child Matthew. The handsome chaps standing at the back are my dad Walter (b. June 16, 1936), me, granddad (b. March 5, 1907 d. May 18, 2000) and my brother-in-law Joseph Muscat (b. February 17, 1962). Seated on the sofa are my youngest son Alan (b. June 10, 1986), my wife Lorna (b. January 16, 1958), my mother Kathy (b. September 21, 1937), Suzette's daughter Sarah (b. October 18, 1987), Suzette (b. November 7, 1963), Matthew (b. July 6, 1989), my younger sister Amanda (b. January 9, 1973). Squatting at the front are my sons Robert (b. October 30, 1979) and Sean (b. March 21, 1984).

History Channel

In September, I submitted some of my research to the Family History Project at the History Channel. You never know, one day they might decide to make a documentary about our extended family. You can visit their website at:

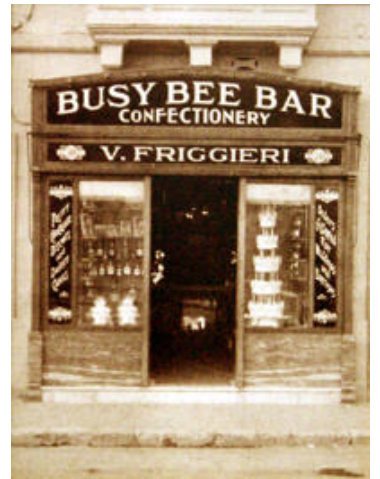
www.thefamilyhistoryproject.co.uk

At The Movies

In the last issue I included a biography of Francesco Frigeri. His latest work was the Production Design for Mel Gibson's new film 'The Passion of the Christ' which is due to be released in cinemas next month. Pre-release publicity indicates that the film is a very graphic representation of the last twelve hours of Jesus Christ's life and is likely to arouse some controversy over its interpretation of the Gospels.

Busy Bee

In 1933, at the age of 26, my grandfather Vincent set up his own business under the name Busy Bee Bar on the seafront overlooking the creek at Msida. He specialised in Maltese confectionery favourites like ricotta filled kannoli, almond pastries, pastini



and krustini and steadily built a reputation for quality and wholesome products. Over the years he



further developed the confectionery business and expanded into an Italian style Coffee Shop. The Busy Bee was also on its way to becoming a household name in the

highly competitive wedding catering market. In 1974, my uncle Edwin (b. August 15, 1944) took over the business and continued to build on his father's reputation. The premises were extended and elegantly refurbished to improve the customer experience. At the same time, Edwin gradually expanded the product line and introduced Italian



delicacies such as Dolci di Mandorla, hand made Torroncini and continental style ice creams (made to his own secret recipe). In 1988, Edwin decided that the Busy Bee should have its own Function Rooms and to that end acquired Villa Mдина at Naxxar. Since then it has become one of Malta's most sought after venues for hosting wedding receptions.

You can check it out online at:

www.busybee.com.mt/pages/villamdina.htm

Sporting News

Last September, Jacques Friggieri (b. July 23, 1984) signed up with Entente Sportive Municipale de Gonfreville L'Orcher (ESMGO) to play in the French Handball League. Jacques who is the son of Albert (b. January 14, 1951 in Malta) and Catherine Bertucat (b. France) is also studying in Le Havre.



Although only 19, Jacques has already been playing for five years and has achieved success as part of the Aloysians ProMinent team that won the Malta League Championship for three consecutive years between 2001 and 2003. This team also won the Knock Out competition in 2002 and 2003 and both the Super Cup and Zeus Cup in 2003. His personal achievements include winning the Under-16 Best Player and Under-16 Top Scorer. Jacques has been selected to represent his country several times and was part of the Maltese team that secured a Bronze medal in an international competition held in Hungary in 2001.

Frigeri Heritage

In the town of Chieti in Italy there is a park and villa named for Baron Ferrante Frigeri. He was the heir of a Lombard-Venetian family whose founder, Francesco, was a distinguished captain under Alphonso D'Avalos, commander of Charles V's army that conquered Chieti in 1519. Ferrante was born in 1783 and at the age of 40 decided to build 'Villa Frigeri'. Today the building hosts the national archaeological museum and is set in a park full of rare and exotic plants.

Oliver Friggieri

I first began corresponding with Oliver in 1998. He is based in Malta and from the outset has been a constant source of inspiration and support for the Family Project. Oliver is a man of many talents and as far as I am aware is the only Friggieri mentioned in the Encyclopaedia Britannica. I am proud to declare that my personal library contains several of Oliver's works of poetry and prose. His novels have been translated into several languages and if you have not read any of them I recommend that you log on to Amazon and add one of them to your reading list.

Nostalgia

Francis Friggieri (b. July 13, 1924) married Albert Ernest Taylor (b. January 11, 1920) in Floriana, Malta on June 5, 1941. Albert had been serving with the Royal Artillery in Malta since January 1939. In January 1944, they and their two children were part of a convoy of 50 ships enroute to the UK that endured several U-boat attacks.



Anna Friggieri (b. March 29, 1934) married Joseph Schembri (b. October 14, 1931) by proxy in Malta on September 15, 1953. In January 1954, Anna left Malta bound for Australia on the S.S. Sydney. Anna and Joe had five children, one of whom, Linda Evans has been a regular contributor to my research.



International News

Australia



Lisa Friggieri (b. January 12, 1971) married Malcolm Middleton on October 18, 2003 in Sydney. Lisa is my 5th cousin - our common ancestor was Salvatore who was born in Malta in 1775.

Brazil

Recently I heard again from Fernanda Frigeri formerly of Porto Alegre but now residing with her husband Bruss in Frankfurt, Germany. Fernanda has provided a lot of new information about her branch of the family. She is descended from Vincenzo Frigeri (b. December 1876) who left Genoa for Brazil on the 'Attivita' in August 1895. In 1899, he married Clara Balbinotti and they had ten children. Their son Antonio was born on September 10, 1910 and in turn had twelve children with his wife Adelina Bonfante. Fernanda's

father Avelino (b. July 9, 1942) was one of their children. I have updated the Brazil section of the website with all of the details.

England

Lourdes Lillian Taylor (b. December 17, 1946) is the daughter of Francis and Albert whose wedding photo appears on page 3. She lives in Plymouth and is my second cousin.

Italy

On March 27, 2003 Gianluca and Daniela Friggeri had a baby daughter named Alice Maria. I met Gianluca, Daniela and their son David (b. January 31, 1997) when I visited Reggio Emilia in March 2000 (see Newsletter 2.2).

Malta

I have just booked a flight to Malta to visit my parents and sisters' families over the Easter break. While there I intend to visit several parishes

to look through their archives for more family information.

Puerto Rico

Heyda Ufret has written to me to tell me that her grandfather was Ufret Frigeri. She has been trying to trace her roots and believes that the name 'Ufret' links him to people who emigrated from Curacao in the 19th century.

USA

This month, I received an email from Susan Barron in New York who told me that she is the granddaughter of Marie and Marconi Frigeri. Marconi (b. January 20, 1903 d. July 1972) was the son of Pietro whose mini-biography featured in issue 3.1. Karen Frigeri has also written to inform me that she became Mrs Marchner in San Diego (see photo) in June 2003 and has moved to Tucson, Arizona. Karen's grandfather Volta (b. January 20, 1904 d. February 1981) was Marconi's younger brother. That makes her Susan's second cousin.



Published periodically by Vince Friggieri

1 Church Croft, Edlesborough, Bedfordshire LU6 2HU, England
Tel: (00) 44 1525 220735, Mobile: (00) 44 7789 958487,
vince.friggieri@btinternet.com www.friggieri.com

