



Cats rub against each other at the Senglea waterfront. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

AN INCISIVE LOOK AT OUR SOCIETY

Kevin Casha reviews the *Times Picture Annual 2015*.

As is the norm, at the end of the year, the *Times Picture Annual 2015* appears on bookshelves. This 10th edition gathers together some of the most outstanding images captured by the *Times of Malta* photographers during the past year. It is not only a record of iconic images but also a pictorial gallery of the main events and topics which formed part of the local news scene.

Furthermore, like previous editions, the book also provides an incisive look at our society. It is a publication which makes a welcome addition to the bookshelves of Melitensia collectors and, as time relentlessly goes by, is bound to provide a lasting memory of each eventful year on our little island.

The quality of the pictures contained in this book is proof of the high level that local press photographers have attained. Equipment and technology have further equipped photographers to immortalise the exact split second where the peak of the action occurs; empowering them to capture images in light which would have previously not sufficed to even make an exposure.

I look forward to the issue of any publication that has to do with local photography. This genre of art has many times proved the island has an ever-evolving crop of promising photographers who are capable of regularly providing work that is on a par with the best of foreign photography. If only the authorities would recognise this fact and help the local photographic community.

The establishment of a centre for photography, a museum and a dedicated gallery for photography are badly needed initiatives which would further bolster the photographic scene in Malta.



White storks, most of which bear rings from Sweden, rest in a field beneath Mdina during their migration south. Photo: Steve Zammit Lupi

A collection of images which primarily depict the power of the photograph

Like previous editions, *The Times Picture Annual* is a collection of images which primarily depict the power of the photograph. While one leafs through this book, most of these perceptions are borne out. One of the first images which made me reflect was the one on pages 60/61 by Matthew Mirabelli. Here we have proof of the photographer's

clever intervention in capturing not just a document but a striking and intriguing image. It shows one of the bodies of 24 immigrants who perished during their desperate search for a better life. The way the photograph has been composed just gives enough information to spur on the viewer.

This is just one of a number of powerful images that, understandably, depict the immigration issue – an issue which causes