
FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 70

NOVEMBER 2004

NEW MEMBERS: Juliet Bewley; John Bewley; Surgeon Rear Admiral David Lammiman;
Caroline Lammiman; Jonathan Tidnam; Mary Hooker; Gordon Vernon; Lois Bailey;
Dr Josu de la Fuente; Peter Bond; Robert Azzopardi; Christine Scott; Maribel Lawrence-Parody.

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PICILAVE 2005

This will be held on July 4th at The Hideaway, Hatford Down, Faringdon, Oxon by kind courtesy of Reggie Norton. It will be organised by David Inker davidjinker@msn.com A booking form will be in the next issue.

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TRADITIONAL VISIT TO GIBRALTAR

The Convent advises that the Queen's Birthday will be celebrated on 9th June 2005. The FOGHS visit will take place from Saturday 5th June to Saturday 12 June 2005. The cost per person is £538.

Those wishing to reserve, at this stage without commitment, should telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948. Speed is of the essence as Cadogan reports an increased interest in Gibraltar because of its connect with Admiral Lord Nelson.

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NATIONAL DAY PARTY

It is hoped that a reception will be held in September 2005 at Lambeth Palace to mark National Day. Arrangements have not been finalised

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SEMINAR 2005

The FOGHS Gibraltar seminar will be held on Saturday 1st October 2005 at the Warwick Arms Hotel. The change of month is to ensure no clash with the visit to Gibraltar to mark the bicentenary of Admiral Lord Nelson's death.

The hotel has reverted to an inclusive price per room, bed and breakfast and three course dinner for a price of £50 per person. (This is £2 more than the 2004 price). The supplement for single persons occupying a double room has been increased to £10.

The 2005 seminar will be organised jointly by Janet Whiteley and Tito Benady. A booking form is enclosed with this newsletter.

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2005 LUNCHEON TO MARK NELSON BICENTENARY

Remember it is the early bird that catches the worm and at this stage members can make a reservation without commitment. Be warned numbers are limited.

This is scheduled to take place on Saturday 25 June 2005 at The Trafalgar Tavern which overlooks the River Thames.

The main party embarks at Charing Cross Pier and sails to Greenwich. For those without sea legs It is possible to drive direct to Greenwich.

After lunch it will be possible to visit the Painted Hall and Chapel and then on to the Nelson Exhibition at the National Maritime Museum.

The following reservations have been made: Mr and Mrs Risso, Mr and Mrs Grummet, David Heck, Neil MacLachlan, Mr and Mrs Inker, Elizabeth McCutchan (5 covers), Margaret Martini-Facio,

Mr and Mrs Pou, Mr and Mrs Carroll.

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EXTRA DISCOUNTS

Cadogan Worldwide Travel are award winning independent Travel Agencies based in Chelsea and Bournemouth. FOGHS members will experience professional service from well-trained staff. They can advise on where to go, what to see - and what to avoid.

As part of the International Bland Group we would like to offer a very special offer to FOGHS members.

On all Package holidays and cruises purchased through us we will give a 5% discount off the price.

To take advantage of this special offer please contact Cadogan Worldwide Travel your membership of FOGHS.

Cadogan Travel, 159 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BT

Telephone 020 7730 0721 Facsimile 020 7730 4976

Email London@cadogantravel.com

Or

Cadogan Travel, 19 Southbourne Grove, Bournemouth, BH6 3QS

Telephone 01202 417717 Facsimile 01202 418102

Email leisureboh@cadogantravel.com

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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS 2005

This will be held in the Gibraltar Government Office in the Strand at 1800 hours on the 2nd February 2005. There is a booking form within this newsletter.

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CHAPEL APPEAL

The Royal Gibraltar Regiment raised some £600 as its donation to the refurbished chapel at the R.M.A. Sandhurst. A Gibraltar businessman had agreed to match the sum raised to a maximum of £1,000. So in order to help out, individual members of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society donated a total of

around £700 thus triggering the £1000 donation. This means that The Royal Gibraltar Regiment will have contributed a cheque in the region of £2,300.

Such a sum will ensure that The Royal Gibraltar Regiment will be in the premier league of contributors.

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GENERAL ELIOTT TAVERN

A member has reported a pub in Vicar Lane in Leeds called The General Elliott. Alas she was on a bus and so unable to take a photograph. Does any member have such an image.

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HELP PLEASE

Francois Bouyssi is searching for his ancestor who used to live on the Rock between 1825 to 1845. His name is Edward Grellet and he was a merchant. Any information should be emailed to bouyssi.francois@wanadoo.fr

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LORD THOMAS OF SWYNNERTON

Lord Thomas is the first to admit that his knowledge of the Gibraltar problem is minimal. The erroneous belief that he is, came about several decades ago because Hugh accepted an invitation to talk to the Gibraltar Society. He believed then and still does that the solution lies in an Andorra type agreement between the Gibraltar, British and Spanish Governments. Ironically today Andorra is a sovereign state.

Lord Thomas repeatedly has been asked for an interview in respect of the Gibraltar problem. Time and time again he refuses on the grounds that he has nothing useful to say as he is not an expert on the subject. Once there was a glimmer of hope when thanks to the intervention of Lord Montgomery, he did agree. However upon reflection Lord Thomas wrote to cancel.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Bobby Sanguinetti for being appointed Captain R.N. He is the youngest Captain in the Royal Navy and is well on his way to becoming the first Gibraltarian Admiral.

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WELL DONE

Kerry Baggely, the Friends' contact at Cadogan has been promoted to reservations manager. Her successor is Alison Collins.

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ARTHUR MOLINARY

Arthur Molinary, the most famous medium in the Mother Country, will be making his annual visit to the Rock next week to coincide with the unveiling of the bust of Admiral Sir George Rooke.

Whilst on the Rock Arthur has accepted an invitation to enter the Great North Road tunnel and sort out once and for all if any spirits or ghosts reside in one of the caves.

Arthur explained to the editor the difference between a spirit and a ghost.

A ghost remains in a place such a dwelling or a cave; indeed in any location where there is aura (energy). The ghost does not move from this location. A medium is able to ascertain whether there is a ghost in situ.

A spirit, on the other hand, moves freely around and if the spirit so wishes will communicate with the medium wherever he or she might be.

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JOHN MORGAN

John Morgan has been appointed as commercial director of GB Airways. Aged 45, he was managing director of Traveforce prior to its sale to Portman Travel. He has also held the position of director of marketing and sales for bmi and spent 12 years with British Airways working in a variety of roles in the UK and Australia.

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ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY

The Royal Commonwealth Society in its annual report states that there is an active branch on the Rock. John Verrall, solicitor, is Gibraltar's honorary secretary.

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CADOGAN HOLIDAYS

A MEMBER OF THE BLAND GROUP ESTABLISHED 1810

The best company to travel to Gibraltar with is award-winning CADOGAN HOLIDAYS, the first company to promote tourism to the Crown Colony over 50 years ago. It has had a strong presence ever since. CADOGAN HOLIDAYS is part of the International Bland Group, which is based on the Rock. Since it was founded in 1810, but particularly since its acquisition by the Gaggero family in 1891, the group has seen steady expansion of its interests in air and land transport, hotels and shipping. These interests include the grande dame of Gibraltar's hotels, the 4-star superior Rock Hotel, GB Airways, Bland Travel and Motor Transport, Airside Services at Gibraltar airport and maritime services in the Western Mediterranean and UK. GB Airways, flying in the colours of British Airways, is the major carrier to the Crown Colony.

Southampton-based CADOGAN HOLIDAYS is generally recognised as one of Great Britain's top specialist tour operators. It puts foremost emphasis on service and quality, operating only to the best hotels in their category, and has won countless awards from travel agents and the press. It currently offers holidays in five of Spain's Canary Islands (Tenerife, La Gomera, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote and Fuerteventura), Morocco, Tunisia, Malta, Portugal and its islands of Madeira and Porto Santo, Southern Spain, La Manga and Mallorca, Malta and Cyprus -and Gibraltar, of course.

It will tailor-make a holiday to your precise requirements, whether it be for 2 or for 56 nights, to one destination or a combination of several, and arrange private transfers or a hire car for you. Cadogan guests receive a lot of valuable extras; they range from child, family or group discounts to the waiver of supplements for single travellers, from room upgrades to free nights or meals, from special rates on golf and spa packages to wine and fruit on arrival. All those booking an inclusive holiday receive a wallet with quality labels, map, guide book and discount card.

CADOGAN HOLIDAYS is pleased to offer all FOGHS members special rates on BA/ GB flights to Gibraltar or a 15% discount off its inclusive holidays to the Rock, as well as on any other arrangement in its many brochures. If you wish to make a booking, order a brochure or would like further information, then Alison Collins will be happy to hear from you on 02380 828 401 or by fax on 023-80 228 601.

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BICENTENARY OF ADMIRAL LORD NELSON'S DEATH

The annual visit to the Rock will take place from 18-30 October 2005. On the 21st October, after attending the ceremony at Trafalgar cemetery, the Party will be driven to Cape Trafalgar where Admiral Sir Derek Reffell will lay a wreath. The Friends will repair to a nearby restaurant for a luncheon after which will be drunk the toast - the Immortal Memory.

On the 28th October there will be a suitable ceremony to mark the bicentenary of the arrival of HMS Victory into Rosia Bay containing the body of Admiral Horatio Nelson pickled in a barrel of cheap Spanish brandy. Colin White, the world's greatest expert on Nelson says that there is no evidence to support the theory that Nelson's body was brought ashore at Rosia Bay. He told this newsletter that the only way for this theory to be proved is for someone on the Rock to produce contemporary documentary evidence. On the other hand there is no evidence to say that the body remained on board.

This might take the form of a letter saying that the writer had seen the Nelson corpse on shore. That evening there will be a dinner at the Lord Nelson restaurant in Casemates.

The FOGHS will be working closely with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Nelson Society and the Royal Marines Regimental Association.

Reservations, without commitment, are now being taken. Please telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

Reservations have been made by the following: Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell, Peter and Kay Fisher, Peter and Valerie Abraham, Les and Elaine Piercy, Angela Conroy, M. Blunt,

Victor and Magda Risso, G. Blount, Neil Maclachan, Paul Shone, Neville and Janette Whiteley,

David and Sandra Inker, Mr and Mrs Robinson, Mr and Mrs Lawson Cruttenden, Dr and Mrs Bruce,

Brian and Audrey Dutton, Colonel Robin and Gabrielle Eveleigh, Elizabeth McCutchan,

Margaret Martini-Facio, Stephen Evans, Guy Harries, Riccard and Leslie Parsonson, John and Juliet Bewley.

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LETTERS IN THE NATIONAL PRESS

Ernest Reading – Navy News

As an avid reader and subscriber to The Navy News I read with great interest the article under the headline 'Helping Hands' with the sub head 'Neglect wiped away on Rock', in which it states that The Maritime Data Centre together with some young persons doing community service cleaned up the Trafalgar Cemetery in Gibraltar.

As a Gibraltarian and a member of the Board of the Friends of the Gibraltar Heritage Society in this country, I am surprised that Lt.Cdr Chapman made no mention to the fact that in August during the clearing up operation when our Chairman, Admiral Sir Derek Reffell visited the cemetery. He was told that £200 was required to enable the missing and broken tiles surrounding the beds and graves to be replaced; this sum had been under discussion with various authorities for several weeks, months if not years and no cash had been forthcoming.

Sir Derek contacted members of the Board and an immediate donation of £200 was made by FOGHS to enable the task to be carried out.

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Michael Melgarejo – Mirror

Unfortunately Iain Mayhew spoils his article on tourism in Gibraltar with these errors of fact:

Gibraltar is a VAT free not duty free shopping centre,

Nelson's body was not brought ashore after the battle of Trafalgar,

It is the strait not the straits of Gibraltar,

It is a peninsula not peninsular, (Wellington won the peninsular war on the Iberian peninsula).

The height of the Rock is 1393 not 1300 feet.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of the British presence on the Rock. British sovereignty started in 1713 after the Treaty of Utrecht.

A litre of gin costs £3.50 whilst a litre of whisky is about £5.

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Dr Reginald Andlaw – Times

Mr Tipping suggests that the Gibraltarians should be given 'due notice' that a handover to Spain will be negotiated sometime in the future. Is there a time limit to the basic democratic right of self-determination?

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The Marques de Lendinez – Mail

I read with interest the story about the free loading indulged in by the Prime Minister, 'Three villas Blair' (9 August) and no doubt followed by many members of the Government.

I have just returned from enjoying the Tercentenary celebrations on the Rock of Gibraltar and was able to contrast the travelling arrangements of those employed by Her Majesty the Queen.

On the flight down I sat in tourist class behind the Lord Chamberlain of HM Household and Lady Luce and on the return behind the Queen's Representative (Governor) in Gibraltar and Lady Richards.

Need I say more.

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IDEAS FOR NELSON BICENTENARY

John Crookshank writes;

1. Open up the walls from Waterport to the Dockyard.

A walkway or even a narrow rail link could be built along the top of the walls. There are already several access points and more could be added.

2. Create a path from Casemates Square up to the batteries overlooking the airfield and frontier.

At present there is a rubbish stream from the corner of Casemates to the nearest old battery positions. This could be cleaned up and joined to the road leading up to Moorish Castle thus creating a walk.

2. Greater accessibility to Mediterranean Steps

Some work has been carried out (and the walk should not be spoiled by overzealous activity) but the top section could be made easier. There are two World War Two buildings which could be made good tea rooms with magnificent views. Electricity and water would have to be supplied.

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NELSON

John Bewley, a new FOGHS member, has come up with a follow up to what happened to Lord Admiral Horatio Nelson's body when it arrived at Rosia pickled in Spanish brandy.

He writes; 'The tale of wine being added to the brandy preserving Nelson's body at Gibraltar is false and is clearly based on a corruption of 'Spirits of Wine' which is a virtually pure ethyl alcohol, and at time would have been produced from several distillations of wine. This old name for alcohol was still in use in the 1950s. It is interesting to speculate whether the surgeon, Beatty, obtained this from the local apothecary: also, was the alcohol taken on board Victory, or was Nelson's cask swung ashore to be drained and refilled'.

This is the \$64,000 question with Colin White saying that the body was not taken ashore and Pepe Rosado saying that it was.

Both parties will accept any contemporaneous correspondence saying that the body was seen ashore as being proof and regard the debate as being closed.

As this correspondence is now unlikely to surface, Arthur Molinary, the Gibraltar medium, has agreed to consult the spirits for a decision.

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BBC RADIO 4

Richard Murray, a BBC Radio 4 producer, was asked by a listener to find out whether the Gibraltar World War Two evacuees were taken to Bakingside or Barking and what was the name of the complex in which they were housed.

This proved to be a hard question to answer but the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Association's Club in Irish Town can usually be relied on to produce a member who can answer any question however obscure.

And so it was when Lucy Ryman stepped forward to say that she was evacuated there; it was the Dr Barnado's Home in Barkingside.

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UNITY ON HEIGHT OF THE ROCK

In 1992 Alan Clark of Mott MacDonald, in conjunction with Andrews, Kent and Stone arranged for the height of the Rock to be measured using the latest technology. The study found that the Rock had shrunk by 2 feet 9 inches since the height was last measured. It was 424 metres high.

Ten years later in October this year a similar exercise was carried out by 13 Geographic Squadron, Royal Engineers, 42 Engineer Regiment who fortunately arrived at the same height – 424 metres high. Now all that has to be done is to persuade the Gibraltar Tourist Office to use this height in all publications.

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GIBRALTAR ROCK

BRITISH FORTRESS – JEWISH HAVEN

Six months after a Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society committee meeting, Isaac Hassan, Graham Morris and Albert Poggio formed a sub committee to plan, arrange and execute an exhibition about Jewish life on the Rock as part of the Jewish community's contribution to Gibraltar's tercentenary celebrations.

Prominent members of the Jewish community were persuaded to loan artefacts, paintings and other memorabilia and the result is a remarkable exhibition which any Gibraltarian visiting London should make a point of visiting. It is held at The Jewish Museum, 129 Albert Street, Camden Town and is open from 6 July until 31 October 2004.

KEY PEOPLE

Key people connected to this exhibition include Jennifer Marin, the curator and Tito Benady who provided all the historical facts and figures required. The exhibition marks 300 years of British history and Jewish life in Gibraltar. In 1704 British forces arrived on the Rock, and the story of the Jewish community also began in that year. The two communities have been interdependent ever since; and Gibraltar today is a tapestry of faiths and cultures, where Jews, Muslims and Christians have lived together amicably in a society that is a paradigm of tolerance and coexistence.

Some of the exhibits have been loaned from the National Maritime museum and National Army museum, others have been loaned by Gibraltarian families and there are some stunning photographs taken by Ruth Morris.

A special feature is a collection of paintings by Jacob Azagury whose works have never before been on display outside Gibraltar. These have been loaned by the Marrache family.

Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy, Reina Marrache, escorted by three of her sons, and Donna Seruya plus a host of other prominent members of the Jewish community were present to watch the Chief Minister open the exhibition.

SPEECHES

Following speeches by the Museum's Director and then the Vice Chairman of the FOGHS, the Chief Minister said: "It is a great pleasure and honour for me to be here to open this exhibition which we owe to the inspired thinking of Isaac Hassan and Graham Morris and their FOGHS colleagues. It is entirely appropriate that there should be Friends of Gibraltar's Heritage in the United Kingdom. Although it is more commonly heard said that Great Britain is part of Gibraltar's heritage I like to say that Gibraltar is also part of Great Britain's heritage.

GIBRALTAR'S HISTORY

Our history during the last 300 years is so inextricably linked one with the other that there is part of Britain and part of Britain's history in Gibraltar just as there is so much that Gibraltar owes to Great Britain. It is particularly appropriate that we should be celebrating this exhibition in our tercentenary year. Gibraltar owes everything that it is, to the 300 years of our relationship with Great Britain and the fruits of that relationship. We owe to Great Britain everything that we are and everything that we have; our democracy, our system of Government, our heritage, our administration, our educational system, indeed everything that we are today we owe to the fact that we have enjoyed 300 years of this extraordinary strong relationship with Great Britain and with her Armed Forces. This is what we are commemorating, the 300th anniversary – people say 300 years as if they are scrambling eggs – 300 years is longer than most countries in the world have existed as sovereign, independent states, and longer than most countries in the world have existed within their present boundaries, and longer than most countries that are 1500 miles apart have wanted to keep close ties with each other.

LINK WITH GREAT BRITAIN

Gibraltar values its relationship with Great Britain and celebrates this year the fruits of the past 300 years and looks forward to many more hundreds of years of the relationship with Great Britain.

One of the first constituent elements in the community that over centuries became the people of Gibraltar is the Jewish community in Gibraltar. When you think about it, Gibraltar is probably the only spot in continental Europe that has been a haven of safety for the Jewish people in the whole of that 300 years.

JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Jewish population in Gibraltar began shortly after the capture on 4 August 1704 when all of a sudden there was once again a place on the Iberian peninsular where Jewish people could settle. During the Second World War Gibraltar was the only part of continental Europe that remained in

Allied hands throughout the war. For 300 years Gibraltar has demonstrated the sort of harmonious welcoming liberal coexistence attitudes – I do not like the word tolerance as it suggests a degree of reluctance – you tolerate things that you do not really like. It is not a matter of tolerance. In Gibraltar there is a genuine sociological 300 year product of genuine harmonious existence and there is no need for tolerance because there is a genuine desire and willingness amongst people of many ethnic origins, of many religious persuasions not just to live harmoniously side by side but to live harmoniously

side by side fully respecting and trying even to understand the religious beliefs of others. And if representatives of most countries in the world just came to Gibraltar, absorbed some of what there is to see in Gibraltar, learn the lessons from it, take them back home, practise what they see in Gibraltar then the world would be a much more peaceful and a much happier place than it is today.

As happens in so many countries, the Jewish community in Gibraltar has played a huge role in the development of the country and community that Gibraltar is today. You will all know that the Jewish Community has been in Gibraltar since 1704 immediately after the British conquest and the subsequent Treaty of Utrecht. So for 300 years the Jewish Community in Gibraltar has been contributing probably more than its fair share to the successful development of Gibraltar into what it is today. Because for a community that is still only about 500 in size, the influence and the

value that is injected into life in Gibraltar at every level has been hugely disproportionate to their numbers.

JEWISH CONTRIBUTION

Whether you consider political life, the much loved Sir Joshua Hassan was doing my job or its equivalent for 40 years, whether it is in the economy, whether it is in commerce, whether it is in professional life, there are leading members of the Jewish Community playing a prominent role in every aspect of the development of Gibraltar.

Therefore it is entirely fitting that this exhibition should be opened and staged thus demonstrating the enormous role played by the Jewish Community in Gibraltar. I would say that without the contribution of the Jewish Community has made to Gibraltar over the last 300 years, Gibraltar certainly would not be the prosperous community, the economically self-sufficient community that it is today.

The Jewish Community in Gibraltar is as committed, as all other sections of our community, to making sure that our political and democratic rights and aspirations as a people are respected not just for the next 300 years but indefinitely.

Many of you know that even though we are in Western Europe in the 21st Century our neighbour still has aspirations to regain – I say regain as they last had sovereignty in 1704 which seems an awfully long time ago – sovereignty as if Gibraltar was a piece of territory that can be transacted in an 18th century manner over the heads and regardless of the wishes of the people of Gibraltar. I know that the Jewish Community in Gibraltar, as indeed does everybody in this room, will want to recognise and respect that in the 21st century we have all come a long way and our ancestors have made huge sacrifices to ensure that the political, human and democratic rights of successive generations thereafter are respected.

POLITICAL RIGHTS

This means that in a democracy only the people of Gibraltar can decide its future. If the people of Gibraltar, as they do, wish to exercise that right by choosing to preserve and strengthen the links that we have with the United Kingdom, which is what we want to do, then I know that everybody in this room and indeed millions of people up and down the length and breadth of this country will respect our right to do it.

As we commemorate 300 years of history we are also making a statement about the sort of respect we expect to enjoy for our political rights as a people. Our aspirations should be respected as we go forward.

Thank you very much for honouring Gibraltar and not just Gibraltar in general but in particular the Jewish Community as they are an integral part of the community at large, honouring us

by having an exhibition in this museum and so on behalf of myself, on behalf of the Gibraltar Government and on behalf of all the people of Gibraltar I declare this exhibition open”.

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE JOURNAL

The next issue of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal will be dedicated to the Jewish Community on the Rock and the contribution it has made to Gibraltarian life. The publication will be sponsored by S.M. Seruya Limited.

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ESSENTIAL PURCHASE – THEY WENT TO WAR

Some years ago Eric Canessa discovered that there was no list of Gibraltarians who had served in the Second World War. At the time he was looking up one person and had no idea that so many Gibraltarians volunteered for active service.

Eric soon discovered the true meaning of the adage if you have a good idea then convert it into reality yourself. And so he started to research this project and found that like Topsy it just grew.

It all took a considerable length of time as each possible entry involved painstaking research The result is a 242 page book listing no fewer than 92 Gibraltarian volunteers.

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, in the foreward, succinctly sums up the book’s usefulness.

“The contribution of members of the Gibraltar Defence Force is well known and has been properly acknowledged, but little is known of the war service of Gibraltarians who served the British Crown elsewhere. They had no obligation to serve. They were nearly all volunteers.

Their services, their adventures and their memories make fascinating reading. There are so many well-known Gibraltar family names in this book. There are many moving accounts of service in far corners of the world.

I am privileged to write this foreward and to acknowledge the debt which we owe to such loyal citizens. It is a debt of honour”.

The first volunteer profiled is none other than that larger than life character, Major Alfredo Gache and the last is Petty Officer Joseph Stagno.

An amusing story is told about Sergeant Francis Chipolina although it did not amuse him at the time.

“Then came the evacuation from Dunkirk, two months later, by which time Francis’ regiment had lost three quarters of its men. Francis spent seven days in Dunkirk shuttling back and forth from the beach until he was eventually able to board a boat to take him home.

They took him to Land’s End. At that time there was a fear of fifth columnists entering Britain with the returning troops and Francis’ dark complexion and non-English accent made him a prime suspect as a possible infiltrator. He spent the next three weeks under guard whilst his background was checked with the Gibraltar Police”.

Eric managed to enthuse his family with his zest for the project and so during the months when he was sick the many tasks were taken over by wife, his children and even grandchildren. It ended up a team effort. Eric and his helpers are to be congratulated on producing an important history of 92 gallant Gibraltarians , which is also a contribution to the history of the evolution of the Gibraltarian.

An essential purchase and a marvellous Christmas present.

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AUGUST VISIT

A record number of Friends joined this year’s visit to mark the tercentenary of the capture of Gibraltar by Admiral Sir George Rooke . As ever the programme was organised by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and masterminded by ‘Big Dave’Eveson.

This is but a mention of a few of the events on the programme; some receptions are covered on other pages.

The Friends were addressed by Professor Dr Clive Finlayson at the Tercentenary Exhibition – 300 years of Gibraltar . This was a remarkable exhibition of a unique assemblage of works that have not been seen together before and are unlikely to be seen together for some time.

Bill Brister addressed the Gibraltar Rotary Club on the subject of aspects of the Prison service. A fascinating account in view of the somewhat primitive conditions at Moorish Castle prison.

Bishop Charles Caruana, the Minister for Tourism and Tito Benady addressed the Friends and all left the meeting knowing considerably more than when they entered the conference suite.

Another fascinating talk was given by media personality and librarian Lorna Swift; the girl who knows something about everything.

There were tours round the Alameda Gardens, Flat Bastion Magazine, the Great North Road tunnel, Trafalgar cemetery, the synagogues and the Scottish Church

All took part in the holding hands round the Rock and the FOGHS took up station between Ragged Staff Gate and the Piccadilly Bar.

The Society was represented by Colonel Robin Eveleigh at the ceremony and parade to award the Freedom of the City of Gibraltar to the Royal Navy.

Special mention must be made of the kindness shown by Lady Richards who allowed a party, way in excess of the normal maximum, to traipse round her home and truly wonderful garden. This was under the supervision of the redoubtable Pepe Rosado who had an anecdote about every nook and cranny of the Convent. He told the party about the Convent ghost who has been seen by too many people at different times to be a myth. Perhaps Arthur Molinary's services should be called on to answer the many questions raised by this ghost?

The visit was so good that the Gibraltar Heritage Trust have been asked to organise two visits next year – the customary one in June and the Bicentenary of Nelson's death on October.

The Society are in the debt of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in general and to Christina and Joe Gaggero in particular.

AUGUST 4TH 2004

Gibraltar united in a graphic and historic gesture of solidarity yesterday when seven miles of people boldly linked hands encircling the Rock in celebration of 300 years to the day of a British Gibraltar. Thousands of Gibraltarians and friends turned up for this momentous day which will go down in history as the day the Gibraltar spirit of unity ruled. From north, south, east, and west they came – from the Lighthouse to Red Sands Road, down through Queensway, Europort, Waterport, to the frontier down to Catalan Bay with eleven boats from the Ammunition jetty to the end of Sandy Bay. Members who wish to read the full account of this momentous day should log on to WWW.Chronicle.gi

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A PROUD PAST AND CONFIDENCE FOR THE FUTURE
From the Chief Minister Peter Caruana

Tomorrow is the focal point of the year long celebration of the Tercentenary of British Sovereignty of Gibraltar. It is thus an important day in our collective journey as a people, not just because we celebrate

our history, but because we look forward to a future of respect for our collective rights and aspirations as a people.

Our 300 year history has an important military element, not just because of the part that successive generations of the British military has played in the defence of Gibraltar, but also because of the very close ties that have existed (and continue to exist) between Gibraltar and almost every branch of the British Armed Forces. Indeed, in defence activities lay the foundations upon which we have been able to build our civilian community and economy.

The relationship between Britain and Gibraltar has thus been beneficial to both in manner that we form an important part of each other's heritage. It is no coincidence that, to this day, the Royal Marines cite just one battle honour on their colours, the single word "Gibraltar". Nor is it a coincidence that the Royal Engineers were born in Gibraltar. For the Royal Navy, for the army and (more recently) for the Royal Airforce, Gibraltar has been a "home from home" base for centuries, resulting in the building of the famous dockyards and airfield, and miles upon miles of ramparts, bastions and tunnels, all of which now form such an important part of our heritage.

Indeed, throughout history, Gibraltar has played an important part in almost all British military endeavours in the Western hemisphere. For example, it was the only territory in continental Europe that remained in Allied hands throughout World War 2, making possible the relief of Malta, the allied landings in North Africa and many other vital operations. It remains to this day an important, strategic military asset for British defence and other interests.

For our part the relationship with Britain has given us everything that we value – the opportunity to establish a prosperous economy and thus a successful and viable society; our democratic values and freedoms; our system of politics and government; our educational and judicial systems; our legal system and so on. These are the fruits of our relationship with Britain and they are well worth commemorating and celebrating. They form the building blocks of who we are as a people, collectively and individually, and they have shaped our aspirations and determination as a people. Our aspirations and determination as a people have also been forged by the suffering, sacrifices, courage and determination of our previous generations of Gibraltarians who have established Gibraltar as our homeland, and without whose steadfast commitment and resolve we would not have what we enjoy today, nor be what we are today.

And so, during this our Tercentenary, we remember with gratitude our forefathers, not least the war time generation – the evacuees without whose love for Gibraltar and determination to return to their homeland none of what followed would have happened – and the resolute determination of the "closed frontier" generation. Both of these events and experiences were instrumental in reinforcing the sense of identity and unity today of the Gibraltarian people and our resoluteness in the face of community. The diversity of our origins over the centuries has made Gibraltar a hugely warm, welcoming and hospitable community, where people of different ethnic origins and religions live side by side in genuine peace and harmony – something which larger countries could learn from us, to their advantage.

It is deeply regrettable that some of our neighbours (but by no means all) appear to resent our celebration of our history. We must not allow ourselves to be thereby distracted from the enjoyment of our celebration of this momentous anniversary for our community and our homeland. No-one can be denied their history nor its implications for their future.

And so, during this our Tercentenary year, we look forward as well into the future. As we celebrate our 300th birthday – which most countries in the world have not yet done – we also renew our collective determination as a people to prevail in the defence of our political rights and aspirations, principally the right to freely and democratically decide our own future. We are not, as some would constantly focus the issue, a sovereignty problem waiting to be resolved. We are a 21st Century, democratic, European people waiting to have our rights respected. Nobody has the right to negotiate or decide our future other than at our request and with our consent. And so we look to the future with courage and confidence in the knowledge that our cause is just and right. I hope that we will spend two hugely enjoyable days doing what we do best, celebrating together in friendship, family and community. We have much to celebrate as a people. We are a resilient, close-knit, family orientated, tolerant

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO US!

From the Leader of the Opposition Joe Bossano

The military value to the UK is what made UK devote a disproportionate amount of human and financial resources to create Fortress Gibraltar and make it impregnable. It is inevitable that this genesis of the emergence of our people should be the most visible feature of the heritage of Gibraltar and this is reflected in the activities of this week especially the recognition of the special bond between the Royal Navy and the Rock.

The capture of Gibraltar and the lowering of the Spanish flag is what took place three hundred years ago. The first Gibraltarians came here precisely because it was under British and not Spanish sovereignty. In 1704 Catalans and a large chunk of the north of Spain were in the anti-French coalition alongside the English and indeed Menorca in the Balearics finished, like us, under British rule, which unfortunately for them only lasted eighty years. Some of our Gibraltarian families have Menorcan roots because when Menorca was handed over to Spain they chose to come here rather than purpose only. To hand over total control of the colonial territories to the inhabitants of those colonies. In many cases, just like in ours, those inhabitants were the descendents of the settlers in those colonies after their capture from their former owners, either other colonial powers or the original native inhabitants. Gibraltar is no different in any respect whatsoever from the other fifteen countries under colonial rule still on the list. Almost 30% of the member states of the UN are countries formerly on that list and others were former colonies granted independence before the UN was created.

Indeed when Spain joined the UN in 1955, sponsored by the UK in the hope that this might make up for their "hurt sensibilities" over the Royal Visit, their first action was to object to Gibraltar being on the list of colonial territories claiming that as a part of Spain it should not be there as a territory entitled to decolonisation.

They knew full well, even then, that the right to decolonisation and the right to self determination were inseparable. So did UK and this they defended with great force until the 1967 Referendum and then after the commencement of the Spanish blockade with declining commitment until the final capitulation to the Spanish argument in the signing of the Brussels Agreement in November 1984, just under twenty years ago.

I have no doubt that had the GSLP not mounted from day one an incessant and militant campaign against all attempts to make Brussels work we would now be reaching a 300th anniversary which we could not be celebrating with as much confidence as I feel we can now have, that we will defeat Spain and achieve decolonisation without its involvement in our affairs. Indeed had the Brussels process continued alive after the 1988 election we might not even be allowed now to be celebrating the tercentenary because of the damage to the delicate balance of that negotiating process and the importance of not hurting the ultra "sensitive" Spaniards, sitting in the Palacio de Santa Cruz in Madrid, live under Spanish rule.

I have never had any doubts during my forty years of involvement in our country's politics or my thirty-two years membership of our Parliament, the House of Assembly, that the Spanish flag would never, ever, again fly over Gibraltar. The important thing though is to ensure that our children and grandchildren realise why this matters so much and why they have a duty to our homeland to defend its independence from Spain.

I know that there are those that feel that expressing such views is unnecessarily hostile to Spain or that it hurts Spanish sensibilities.

I reject the first and I fail to see why we should concern ourselves with the second. I do not recall in the fifty years since the launch of the Spanish campaign against Gibraltar, sparked off because the 1954 Royal Visit hurt their sensibilities, ever having heard anyone in Spain suggest that Gibraltarians might have sensibilities and that this consideration should modify their language in referring to us.

As regards the first I do not consider it an act of hostility to say that we must never come under Spanish rule again, irrespective of whether the offer might be packaged as joint rule with UK and with the maximum level of self-government by us.

UK chose to include us in the UN list of colonies and that list was created for one purpose and one

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COCKTAIL PARTY

Christina and Joe Gaggero invited the visiting Friends to his customary cocktail party at the Rock Hotel. This is the thirteenth such party to mark the thirteenth annual visit. As it was such an important anniversary he also invited 100 of his friends who included Sir Francis and Lady Richards, Peter Caruana and the four visiting former Governors, all members of the Society, making it an historic event.

It was a sensational party and the Governor and Lady Richards went out of their way to meet and talk to each visiting Friend.

The guests were received by Christina and Joe. The President of the Bland Group made a short speech of welcome which was very well received.

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BANQUET

The Banquet to mark the 300th anniversary of the British presence on the Rock was held on HMS Rooke on 4th August 2004.

Those present were:

Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell, Field Marshal Sir John and Lady Chapple, Joe and Muriel Desoisa, Sir Albert and Lady McQuarrie, Graham Morris, Paco and Lourdes Galliano, Alexis and Irene Almeda, Joe and Silvia Ballantine, Ms Hilary Wines, Ms Lyana Armstrong Emery, Riccard and Leslie Parsonson, John and Diana Troake, Neil and Mary Bletcher, William and Eileen Shepherd, Jack and Julia Cox, Maureen Martin, Pepe Forbes, Harvey and Tricia Johnson, Mary Hirst, Gerry and Ann Amundsen, John and Seline Borda, Dr June Raeburn, Norman Renninson, Tom and Eileen Philips, Freda Stuart, John and Jane Stacpoole, Brian Willey Jnr, Tito and Anne Benady,

Brian and Ann Maria Willey, Nat and Patricia Bruzon, Shirley Leslie Bubb, David Viles, Neil and Jane Maltby, Peter and Anne Watson, Peter and Valerie Abraham, Richard and Ditte Wells, Nick Thomas, Derek Fullerton, Bill and Mary Brister, Carol Sivitar, Lorna Swift, Mike and Brenda Brufal, Charles and Maribel Pou, Paul and Lilian Baker, Ian and Marian Ineson, Jack and Anne Armstrong, Les and Elaine Piercy, Dave Eveson, David and Sandra Inker, Carmen Skippen, Neil McLachlan, Lourdes Gaduzo, Violet Gaduzo, Ernie Reading.

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SIR ALBERT McQUARRIE

Sir Albert presented a sculpture of the Queen to the Gibraltarians. This took place on August 4. The sculpture is an image of her head together with her three strings of pearls. Professor Hakim, surgical director of the St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, transplant unit. Sir Albert said; 'As the Queen is unable to visit Gibraltar for certain political reasons, I have brought the Queen to Gibraltar and here on the Rock she will rest for all time.'

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST FAREWELL PARTY

The Garrison Library was the setting for reception hosted by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. The guests included Sir Francis and Lady Richards, Bishop Charles Caruana and the Minister for Heritage, the Hon Clive Beltran.

The Minister gave a short speech saying that he hoped to establish a committee of Friends of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust to determine the future of Gibraltar's heritage.

Joe Desoisa thanked the Minister and bade farewell to the Friends.

Brenda Brufal thanked Joe and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and especially Dave Eveson for their customary warm welcome and the stimulating programme they had arranged.

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VISIT

HEALTH CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dr David McCutcheon is the new Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority.

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TITO BENADY

Tito Benady has written a history of the Royal Navy at Gibraltar since 1900. It is available from The Gibraltar Bookshop and is priced at £15.50.

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IAIN DUNCAN SMITH

Iain and Betsy made a private visit to the most famous Rock in the world.

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TWO FAMOUS FOGHS MEMBERS

The Editor profiles two FOGHS Vice-Presidents.

Albert Hammond and John Galliano are the two most famous Gibraltarians of all time. Both have been honoured by Her Majesty the Queen, and the Gibraltar Government, in addition to receiving countless international awards. These include an Emmy for 'One Moment in Time' the theme song for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul which was sung by Whitney Houston; an Ivor Novello International Achievement Award for sustained musical writing; and a nomination for an Oscar and a Golden Globe Award for 'Nothing Going to Stop Us Now'.

Albert Hammond was born on May 18 1944 and this year marks the sixtieth anniversary of his birth. He was educated in Gibraltar and from an early age showed a precocious talent for music. At nine he was the head choir boy in the parish church and, when he was ten, sang four songs that were recorded by his uncle. What was remarkable was the one of the songs, Estrellita, was released in 1977 on an album and was not re-recorded. He remembers aged eight telling his parents that his ambition in life was to be a singer/songwriter. They were not pleased but thought he would grow out of it.

Albert would not change his life at all. Gibraltar was the best place in the world in which to grow up and he absorbed the multiculturalism, the ethnic mix of Spaniard, Englishman, Moor and Gibraltarian, the religious tolerance and the virtual lack of crime. Subconsciously he was influenced by the many types of music played in Gibraltar – classical, religious, flamenco, zarzuela, Jewish and Moroccan. A pot pourri of sounds using a wide variety of instruments which was absorbed and used later when Albert became one of the most successful songwriters of his generation. Although regarded as a composer who collaborates with some of the finest lyricists in the world, Albert is also an accomplished lyricist himself as can be seen from his list of hit songs.

Aged 12 he wrote his first song which was included in the repertoire when singing at parties with his life long friend Richard Cartwright. In his words 'Gibraltar was and remains an inspiration for me as a singer and a songwriter'.

Albert, in common with the majority of aspiring Gibraltarians of his generation, was taught to play the guitar by the barber in City Mill Lane. Apart from this rudimentary teaching he was never formally taught how to play any instrument or attended any formal music lessons. He is basically self taught or to put it another way enjoys a natural talent. Albert cannot explain why he is able to come up with a song that will be a hit round the world and eventually become a standard. He just hears melodies in his head, grabs a guitar, plays what he hears and within hours has composed what, after lyrics have been added, is a sensational international hit. But on the other hand some can take considerably longer especially when he is writing for a specific artist.

For two years at the end of the fifties Albert and Richard Cartwright, as Albert & Richard, started to play professionally in Gibraltar and southern Spain. In 1960 he left school and together with Richard formed the Diamond Boys who in the main sang early rock and roll songs in English and Spanish. Albert sent a tape of the band singing two of his songs New Orleans and Fool in Love to Parlophone in London and then whilst listening to a radio programme in Gibraltar suddenly heard his first recorded song played on air. He now knew that he would crack first the British and then the international market. He also knew that in order to succeed he would have to leave Gibraltar. So the Diamond Boys left for Morocco and then Madrid. They won the first prize at the Circo Price music festival which enabled the Diamond Boys to become contracted to the RCA label and their second record was released Popotitos/Hey Little Girl/What'd I Say/O Canganceiro. By this time his long suffering parents had given up the struggle and gave their blessing for him to strive to become a successful vocalist and songwriter.

The Diamond Boys disbanded in 1963 and Albert & Richard reverted to their duo act. They went to England and appeared on television in 'Thank Your Lucky Stars'. Two years later they split up but came together towards the end of the year when they worked at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane.

Albert's most vivid memory from this period is one of hunger and the band members used to hang around the kitchens in the hope of being given something to eat; it did not matter what, anything would suffice. During this time he met the lyricist Mike Hazlewood and cut two records under the name Hammond and Hazlewood. It was this partnership that was to launch them into the big time.

Albert earned much needed money as a sessions singer and together with Mike and Steve Rowland formed Family Dogg whose single 'A Way of Life' entered the charts in 1969.

This lengthy introduction shows that it is not easy to break into the profitable side of popular music and as well as talent, copious quantities of courage, determination, contacts and luck are required.

In 1969 Gibraltar was economically besieged by the Franco Government, Lord Shepherd approved the Preamble to the new Constitution and Albert was inspired to write 'Make me an Island' which when sung by Joe Dolan was a number one hit in 14 countries. Albert was now climbing up the ladder of fame and success.

Mike Hazlewood and Albert decided that having conquered the United Kingdom now was the time to try to break into the lucrative American market. They flew to Los Angeles in a Westbound 747 with £50 each (the maximum that the British Government allowed to be taken out of the country) and so had to earn money fast to avoid sinking and having to return ignominiously to England. After considerable hard work a contract was signed and \$25,000 paid in advance. Incredibly the first four songs recorded were the eventual hits Down by the River – The Last One to Know – The Air That I Breathe – If You Gotta Break Another Heart.

Clive Davis, then President of CBC Records, insisted that Albert, during the production of this album was singer, writer, producer and musician. There are not many persons in popular music who are so

versatile. His first gold record was 'It Never Rains in Southern California' which was written before he flew out of Heathrow on his first visit to the United States, and it was presented to the Mayor of Gibraltar for display in the Mayor's Parlour.

It was Albert who taught Julio Iglesias to speak and sing in English and Julio returned the compliment by singing many of Albert's songs and inviting him to produce some of the tracks on his albums. In fact Albert produced three of Julio's albums which sold more than 40 million copies.

Because Albert has written so many songs, some have been hits when sung by himself and others by the greatest names in popular music – Art Garfunkel, Johnny Mathis, Olivia Newton-John, Whitney Houston, Julio Iglesias, Willie Nelson, Starship, the Hollies, Neil Diamond, Aretha Franklin, Diana Ross, Celine Dion, kd lang, Simply Red, Nancy Sinatra, Jose Carreras, Elton John, Glen Campbell, the Carpenters, Aswad, Tina Turner, Cliff Richard, Johnny Cash, Demis Roussos, Leo Sayer, Perry Como, Engelbert Humperdinck, Roy Orbison, and Petula Clark and the list goes on and on.

After parting company with Mike Hazlewood in the friendliest possible way Albert has used the services of lyricists such as Hal David, Carole Bayer-Sager, Leo Sayer, Tom Snow, Harold Payne, Eric Katz, Steve Kipner, Wendy Waldman and Roy Orbison.

Albert has produced tracks and albums for, amongst others, Johnny Cash, Julio Iglesias, The Beach Boys, Willie Nelson, The Four Tops, Frank Sinatra, Art Garfunkel, Dolly Parton, The Association, Cass Elliot, Phil Everly, Petula Clark, Perry Como, Jose Feliciano, Lani Hall, Tina Turner and Joe Cocker.

Epic Spain asked him to record in Spanish for the growing world wide Spanish speaking market and a number of highly successful albums were released. This time many of the songs were not his compositions but were Spanish standards. In 1985 the album, Es Facil Amar was awarded a Grammy for best Latin Album. This was sung by Lani Hall who is the wife of Herb Alpert, the co-founder of A&M Records.

All this time Albert was in contact with his family and friends in Gibraltar and his love for Gibraltar has never diminished from those early days on the Rock. Throughout his career Albert has always been an Ambassador for Gibraltar and during the countless media interviews held all over the world he has always said how proud he is to be a Gibraltarian whose family has been on the Rock for several generations.

One of the most memorable concerts of his life was when in 1995 he played in the Queen's Cinema, Gibraltar. Today this is regarded as the best concert ever heard on Gibraltar. Albert donated his services and the proceeds of the concert were given to St Martin's special school. Albert already had bought a Hydro Therapy Pool for the St Bernadette's Occupational Therapy Centre.

Today Albert has semi retired and travels to Gibraltar every year. His contribution to popular music is uniquely as singer, player, writer and producer. His son Albert Hammond Junior, who was baptised on the Rock, is a member of the highly successful band The Strokes and is a frequent visitor to Gibraltar. Naturally he is a Gibraltarian by virtue of being the son of Gibraltar's most successful musician and composer.

Albert's many international awards include an Emmy for 'One Moment in Time' the theme song for the 1988 Olympics in Seoul which was sung by Whitney Houston; an Ivor Novello International Achievement Award for sustained musical writing; and a nominations for an Oscar and a Golden Globe Award for 'Nothing Going to Stop Us Now'.

Albert says that after his death his music will be played for decades and when one of his standards is played by some young band he hopes that it will be said that this song was written by a Gibraltarian.

JOHN GALLIANO

Juan Carlos Antonio Galliano was born in Gibraltar of a Gibraltarian father and a Spanish mother and because of the peculiarities of the Gibraltar registration system was registered as a Gibraltarian. It was

only until recently that a Gibraltar woman married to a non Gibraltar was able to register her child as a Gibraltar. Theoretically he could have been registered as a Spaniard but that at the time this would have been politically unacceptable.

John and his parents left Gibraltar when he was six and they moved to Streatham where his father carried on his trade as a plumber. His father died last July and John came to Gibraltar to bury him at the North Front cemetery. This was his most recent visit to the Rock. Afterwards John said: 'I am sick of reading in every article that my father is a plumber. The journalists then go on to say that I am a plumber's son. I must point out that I am my father's son primarily. What he chose to do as a career was his choice and he did it very, very well'.

So for his first six years John was bombarded by the sights and sounds of cosmopolitan Gibraltar and with a Spanish mother there was an additional Spanish influence with flamenco, rhythm and colour playing key roles. Naturally in Streatham this Iberian influence continued and but he also became immersed with the culture of South London.

His talent swiftly became apparent and in 1984 he graduated with a First Class Honours Degree from the Saint Martin's School of Art. It must not be assumed that riches followed automatically. Like the majority of artists John found it difficult to make a living out of art. However he persevered and found his signature mark through strong and personal collections. His sense of elegance and his Latin tender vision of women made him a popular designer. However this did not bring the required financial rewards and rather than live in London on a shoe string with his studio on top of a service station in Fulham – not the most glamorous of addresses to sell his remarkable clothes and designs – he decided to move to Paris. It was here that he developed his concept of the bias cut this is when fabric is cut on the diagonal to give it drape and extra stretch. Today this has become one of his trademarks and he has made the bias cut a standard one in women's tailoring.

John displayed a Men's wear collection in 1986 and surprisingly it was not until 2004 that he showed another collection which was highly acclaimed.

Although not making sufficient money in London he received the British Designer of the Year Award for an amazing four years

Upon his arrival in Paris he worked the most incredible hours for four years and had little time for anything than his work. This meant that his contact with Gibraltar was through his family rather than personal visits. However he always insisted that his press releases said that John Galliano was born in Gibraltar and was therefore a Gibraltar.

To begin with John found it difficult to survive without the assistance of financial backers who were prepared to wait for several years before seeing a return on the investment. A promising business partnership was with the Danish millionaire Peder Bertelsen who backed his first fashion shows in the early 1900s but this did not last. Instead John looked to the French entrepreneur Faycal Amor and this partnership lasted for three shows. But by 1994 the future looked dire.

There is always a guardian angel on the horizon and on this occasion she was Anna Wintour, editor of American Vogue. She loved the designs, approved of John and took him under her wing. John said: 'She flew me to America and introduced me to the right people'. Then he met Amanda Grieve who went on to marry Lord Harlech and she became for many years his muse.

John reveals that he uses clothes, make-up, hair, music to conceive and bring to life the landscape of his imagination. Above all else he is a perfectionist.

His shows featuring his own collections won over the French press and the all important French buyers. This was recognised when against all the odds he was appointed to succeed Hubert de Givenchy as the designer for the Givenchy Ready to Wear and Haute Couture collections. He is the second British designer to take the tiller of a couture house in Paris. The first was Charles Worth in 1857. Strangely Galliano and Givenchy had never met.

John said: 'I am elated – this is a dream I have had since I left the Rock all those years ago. I am due to meet Hubert in September. He is one of my idols'.

Gianni Versace commented; ' John is a Gibraltarian genius but I warn that he needs some control' .

This is where his genius becomes apparent as well as continuing the designs in the traditional spirit of Givenchy he also showed his own Galliano collections. This brand became stronger and stronger and his inspiration more and more eclectic. His themes included many from the Iberian peninsula and also the Arab world. John's perfect dress combines elegance, glamour and sensuality in equal measures.

In 1997 he received the Fashion World's supreme accolade when he was appointed the designer for Christian Dior. There are those who say that his creativity is not commercial. This is totally wrong as his work has tripled the Dior sales.

He was honoured that same year by the Gibraltar Government when a set of John Galliano stamps was issued. This showed some of his designs for the Christian Dior Haute Couture collection. The souvenir sales sheet showed the street on the Rock where John was born.

At the same time he has developed a wide range of products in his signature range including men's wear, women's ready to wear, bags, shoes, scarves, sunglasses and gloves.

John's trade mark is to create delicious slinky gowns and jackets that appear to belong to a past era linked in to the concept of a fantasy world.

His output is prodigious and today his genius is augmented by all the latest in technology. Between the Dior and his signature shows he produces more than 20 collections a year. This is an incredible workload as the flow of ideas never dries up and for show after show the audiences are thrilled and demand even more outrageous designs for the next show. John is happy to oblige but this demands total dedication and fortunately for all he is the ultimate workaholic.

A handful of Gibraltarians have been privileged to gain work experience in his workshops and they have returned to Gibraltar singing his praises and with their heads crammed with ideas. John is generous in the help he gives to the next generation of designers..

In order to celebrate the Tercentenary John is to present the people of Gibraltar with a classic dress which will show all that goes into the creation of a Galliano design. The dress will be presented to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust as each Gibraltarian accepts that John is very much part of Gibraltar's heritage. John may not have spent much time on the Rock since he left 38 years ago but he has never forgotten where he was born and the fact that he is one of the most famous Gibraltarians of all time.

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JEWISH COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 300 YEARS OF RETURN TO THE ROCK

Gibraltar's Jewish community this week marked three hundred years of the re-establishment of the Jewish rite in Gibraltar with a reception held at the Line Wall synagogue attended by the Governor, Chief Minister, Leader of the Opposition and other local dignitaries.

James Levy QC, president of the Jewish Community, announced that there would be more formal celebrations later in the year with a visit by the Chief Rabbi. He explained that some of those present were descendants of the Jews who had returned to the Rock in the period just after 1704 when Britain ended the exclusion that had been imposed by Spain. He recalled how Britain had in the 17th century begun to give sanctuary to Jews to the degree that the same tolerance had not been practised in the rest of Europe.

The closeness and kindness of the local community makes it a paradigm that the rest of the world would do well to follow, he explained.

The Line Wall Synagogue was founded in 1800 near a spot where Jewish worship had taken place for a century earlier. Parnas presidente for the synagogue Sam Benzaquen also paid tribute to the 300 years

of the relationship between Gibraltar and the British Crown. Prior to that attempts by Jews to live in the region had met with hostility from the Spanish Crown and in some cases ended in blood. He said that between 1492 and 1704 any Jew found in Gibraltar was to be burned at the stake. Gibraltar's association with the British had brought peace to Jews in Gibraltar and he related the staggering fact that during World War II Gibraltar's Jewish Community was the only one remaining in mainland Europe. Gibraltar's rabbinate is world respected and at the same time the Jewish Community participates fully in the cultural, social and commercial affairs of the community and he recalled the contribution to Gibraltar's advancement of rights made by Sir Joshua Hassan. It was pointed out that synagogues around Europe need police protection to function yet in Gibraltar Jews, Muslims and Christians live together in harmony.

Governor Sir Francis Richards paid tribute to the achievements of the Jews in Gibraltar who had been here not just from year one of the 300 year history under Britain but were returning after being made to leave in a cruel way.

Chief Minister Peter Caruana QC also recognised the long presence of the Jews in Gibraltar and their place as an integrated part of the community. Not only had they played an important role but, he said, if it had not been for the efforts of Sir Joshua Hassan the community might not be here at all today given that after the evacuation Britain had considered possibly not returning the people to their homeland. Noting the 300 years of safe life in Gibraltar for the Jewish community as distinct from that in the rest of Europe Mr Caruana stressed the importance of the tercentenary celebration and decried those who would seek to deny or disqualify Gibraltarians of their history.

Mr Caruana also made clear that there could be no truck with those who would seek to deny Gibraltarians their dignity as a people. That was in contrast to a willingness on his part to meet Spanish ministers to seek good relations in conditions where the proper respect exists for our history. Ultimately the decision for the future could only be one for the people of Gibraltar and its democratically elected representatives

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CBF THANKS GIB FOR FREEDOM HONOUR

Commander British Forces Gibraltar, Commodore David White has thanked the people of Gibraltar for the Freedom of the City that was bestowed on the Royal Navy earlier this week.

Commodore White said: "The pride of the Royal Navy in being granted the Freedom of the City was more than matched by the wonderful reception we received from the people of Gibraltar. Thank you."

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Candle in the mist!

SIR ELTON JOHN ROCKS THE ROCK

Alice Mascarenhas reports

No airport behind us and no Rock in front! Over 10,000 people engulfed in a bubble of mist almost suspended in time. Inside this limited space, all thrown in, were the instruments, the stage, the lights, technicians, musicians and Sir Elton John! But this was not a hazy dream - this was the real thing! The dampness, the constant humidity drizzle, the queue stretching back to Portland House.

Nothing seemed to matter. In fact it did not matter as everyone got on with having a great time on this special night. "This is a once in a lifetime experience - Elton John, you can see him anywhere, but not ever again here on the Rock in our hometown!" someone commented.

At 10pm sharp everything gave way to the lights, the band, and the first strands of music - moments later the roar from the crowd signalled the arrival on stage of the man himself, dressed in a dark suit with red shirt and red tinted glasses (what else?). He took a bow and then the magic began with the first notes from his piano - the sound throughout was perfection (almost like listening to a CD). No room for

error, no hum, no noise, the piano notes pure, precise - dry. The band totally synchronised with the man and the stage effects. And the crowd just rocked the night away - dancing and singing in a feel-good-safe environment out to have the best of times. Familiar sounds of classic tunes spanning a career of more than 30 years - it was a journey everyone, at the Victoria Stadium on Friday 10 September 2004, will always treasure. If you missed it - you missed an unforgettable night!

Love him or hate him Sir Elton John is a megastar of the first degree. He is a craftsman in the art of song writing (and has perfected his craft). A superb musician. I had forgotten (having seen him in Sevilla as long ago as '92 just the man and his piano) what an amazing piano player he truly is. This is his instrument, and he plays it to its full potential.

The sound was overpowering (some said it could be heard all the way into town and outside the stadium 200 or 300 people had gathered to listen). It came all the way from Switzerland. His technicians, masters at their work, producing a clear, precise sound which was just right, as they delivered hit after hit after hit in a non-stop session that would last some two and half hours. Sir Elton barely left the stage.

"Great to be here!" he cried as he arrived at his piano.

"Never been here before. Last night we were in Boston today in Gibraltar!" and the music began.

The cheer from the crowd was loud - the queues to get into the Victoria Stadium half an hour before had been long but the flow had been constant as tight security checks were carried out. Some had been queuing up since before 6pm. No one seemed to mind. It had been an ordered procession and the excitement and eagerness of the crowd was evident. This was an event few had wanted to miss and his fans were there. Rumour had it, actor Antonio Banderas, was in the crowd and a few other famous faces from Spain and many ex-pats. With the final turnout at just over 10,000 - the concert was by any standards a staggering success for Gibraltar as everyone quickly settled in to listen to the music.

The £75 seats had been kitted out with special covers, the stadium ground had been covered with a proper protective floor which had apparently cost over £65,000 just to hire, the stage with 'blacks' and two huge screens on either side relaying close-ups of Elton John and his band. At the centre at the back of the stage a third screen used for special lighting effects synchronised with the music - this was technological computerisation at its best.

On a personal level I would have liked a little more acknowledgement of Gibraltar's tercentenary year (after all that was why he was here) and the fact was that he was performing in Gibraltar and it was after all National Day - but suffice I suppose, when he wished a "Happy Birthday", to all in the stadium and told them, "We have had a ball. You have been an incredible audience. God bless you. We hope you have enjoyed yourselves."

He also commented they had had a few technical problems, which produced some surprised faces in the crowd for they had not been a party to this - "What technical problems?"

But the fact is that the weather had played havoc on the instruments - the condensation on the stage produced constant rain. Elton's piano soaking wet had to be continuously wiped down. Shots on the screen revealed the drops of rain on the piano keyboard, his keyboard player had had to adjust to lifting thick plastic sheets when moving from one keyboard to the next, the percussionist and drummer also had to adjust (behind the percussionist there was a waterfall of rain being produced from the lights above him). But none of this in any way interfered with the sound or the performance given by all on stage - Elton and band just got on with it and produced the goods.

For two hours and 20 minutes there was no stopping him - everything timed to precision as he sang one hit after another - spanning through the decades from his earliest hits to songs from his last studio album 'Songs from the West Coast' - here were the familiar sounds from the seventies - the old favourite Daniel, the haunting Candle in the Wind, the instantly recognisable Philadelphia Freedom, Crocodile Rock, Bennie and the Jets, Rocket Man, The Bitch is Back, Someone Save My Life Tonight, Sorry Seems to be the Hardest Word, and Are You Ready For Love.

The eighties sound included the stirring I'm Still Standing and from the nineties Sacrifice and Believe, and in the new Millennium - The Ballad of the Boy in the Red Shoes and I Want Love.

But he left the best for last - and two encores later - Don't Let the Sun Go Down on Me, had taken on new meaning as did his final song - Your Song when he returned to the stage dressed in a blue track suit (ready for take-off).

"My gift is my song," stressed, "and this one's for you!"

Sir Elton had flown in at around 10 o'clock that morning on his private jet. He gave no interviews to the local press and no visiting the sites, instead he took the time to rest until the concert in a special room which had been created for him inside the squash court in the stadium. The toilets too had been given a new look, and I am told that even the toilet seat had been changed. His clothes given special treatment and ironed to his liking by two hired hands.

And as the fans slowly left the stadium some wishing he would return for more, the sound of his aircraft taking off was heard - just 20 minutes after the end of his final song - back on the road to his next scheduled concert in Hong Kong.

The general consensus was unanimous from the very mixed crowd of established fans and new ones "it had been great" - he had been "simply superb".

By all accounts it had been a fitting megastar performance for Gibraltar's tercentenary year!

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HOME LANDING FOR LOCAL PILOT

First Officer Gavin Sacarello was at the controls of the Saturday evening GB Airways flight from London when she landed on the Gibraltar runway. This was Gavin's first flight to Gibraltar since he began working with GB Airways earlier this year. "It is a very proud day for me, and I am still thinking about it!" he said as he came off the flight.

"The weather was calm. A little turbulence at times but although we were fearing the mist it was fine and I flew the plane the whole leg down to Gibraltar."

Gavin was inspired to join GB on his 12th birthday when he was flying to Gatwick and the Captain allowed him to land inside the cockpit.

Following his training in Spain last year he trained on the Airbus A320 with British Airways at Heathrow. After working for three months in the classroom and simulator his first flight was on an Airbus to Chateauroux in France in June. This was Base Training when a pilot takes an empty aircraft to another airfield for some landing practice. His first flight with passengers was to Malta shortly after the Base Training, and he has been busy flying people on holiday all summer! There are 27 destinations on the GB flight plan and he is now seeing his way through all of them.

But his most important flight was last Saturday when he landed in Gibraltar for his very first time.

Sitting on the right seat next to the Captain Paul Hegan who has been doing the Gibraltar run for around 15 years - he saw the Rock from a distance and knew this was the best yet!

"It was so exciting just like a dream come true. This was always my ambition to land here in my hometown and I have done it. I still can't believe it!" he said.

He was met on arrival by his brother Craig, sister-in-law Rachel and nephew Joey, who was given a chance to sit with him in the cockpit - who knows, there could be another pilot in the family!

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GB AIRWAYS EXTENDS FRANCHISE AGREEMENT AND OPENS NEW BASE

GB Airways, the British Airways franchise carrier, has announced the extension of its franchise agreement with British Airways until March 2010 and the launch of a new base in Manchester next year.

The base at Manchester airport will create 140 new jobs and operate new flights to Malaga in Spain and the Canary Islands, Funchal in Madeira, Paphos in Cyprus and Malta.

The airline also confirmed the purchase of three new Airbus A321s over the next three years which will operate from London Gatwick. Airbus 320's will operate from Manchester.

John Patterson, managing director GB Airways said: "I am delighted that franchise agreement has been extended to 2010. GB Airways has a long and successful relationship with British Airways. This extension gives passengers and staff the reassurance that GB Airways will continue to offer British Airways services with all the benefits you would expect from a full service airline at truly competitive fares from Manchester and London."

Roger Maynard, director of investments and alliances British Airways added: "We are very please to extend the franchise agreement with GB Airways by another two years. This agreement has allowed many more passengers to enjoy the benefits of travelling with a globally renowned brand to more places than we would otherwise be able to serve."

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BELTRAN MADE MAYOR

Culture and Heritage Minister Clive Beltran was unanimously elected Mayor yesterday. Mr Beltran took on the duty normally carried out by the Mayor for the ceremony conferring the Freedom of the City on Lords Bethell and Hoyle last month.

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ELTON JOHN FEES

Government contributed US \$600,000 to the payment of Elton John's fees for the Tercentenary concert and £34,000 on preparing the pitch for the concert. The rest was raised by the promoters. Meanwhile it emerged that the private sector sponsorship for events generally totalled £360,000.

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NEW HOSPITAL CHIEF TAKES POST NEXT WEEK

Dr David McCutcheon is to be the new Chief Executive of the Gibraltar Health Authority on a salary of £106,000. He takes post on October 20.

The director of Nursing Services and Patient management will be Karen Parsley on £66,758 and the Human Resources, Chris Wilson on £60,758. Peter Caruana Chief Minister made clear that these are not fixed levels for these salaries but reflected the importation of particular expertise in order to take on the overhaul of the medical services.

It was also revealed that so far Government has paid a total of £972,209.01 in respect of fees for the Healthcare Development Review. To date the Government has received nine reports from the Team and a further six are due over the next three months.

Over the past nine months GPs at the Primary Care Centre (Health Centre) saw just under 8,000 attendances a month. At St Bernard's Hospital saw an average of 1780 casualty admissions a month in 2000. The month with highest number was August 2000 with 2023 casualties recorded.

The treadmill donated to the Health Centre is to be upgraded and will be used in the new facility for stress testing if the donors agree. This will be at the Medical Investigation Unit at the New Hospital which will operate it.

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GIB HOLDS TERCENTENARY INTER-FAITH CELEBRATION

An interfaith celebration of thanksgiving for the occasion of the Tercentenary of British Gibraltar was held yesterday evening at the John Mackintosh Square. The four religious faiths in Gibraltar – Christians, Jews, Muslims and Hindus, – came together to celebrate and to give thanks for the Gibraltar community and the way of life that has brought the community to this day.

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MICHAEL PORTILLO

Michael Portillo was the guest of honour and guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Tercentenary dinner.

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GRAND MASTER MASON

Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing, Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland paid an official call on the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar.

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ROCK HOTEL HONOURED

The RAC presented the Rock Hotel with a White Ribbon Award and the Rib Room with an RAC Dining Award.

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HMS INVINCIBLE

HMS Invincible, accompanied by HMS Southampton and HMS Manchester, called in at Gibraltar harbour.

A member of the Invincible crew was Sub-Lieutenant Stuart Cornelio.

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PEPE MORELLO

Pepe Morello's latest exhibition of his amazing collection of Gibraltar memorabilia was opened by Lady Richards. Pepe always gives a talk about some aspect of Gibraltar life to the visiting FOGHS delegation and is a fund of knowledge about all aspects of Gibraltar's history.

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HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL

The Reverend William Watson, the new assistant Chaplain, Precentor and Port Chaplain was licensed and installed at the Cathedral.

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NEW BOOK

Gibraltar Books has published a book on the History of Education in Gibraltar 1704-2004 by E.G. Archer and A.A.Traverso. It is available from The Gibraltar Bookshop.

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MORE TALES OF TWO CITIES

Wednesday saw the launch of a book 'Cádiz, Gibraltar, y su Campo: memoria colectiva a través de la prensa' by historian Aurora Labio and co-authored by Chronicle Editor Dominique Searle and Juan José Téllez. The book, in Spanish and sponsored by the Diputación de Cádiz, takes a dip into the two centuries of top stories and events covered by the Gibraltar Chronicle and Diario de Cádiz, the Chronicle being the doyenne in this respect.

The research into the two newspapers coverage is set out in themes by Mrs Labio, a professor at Seville University.

These then carry commentaries by Téllez and Searle who some years ago wrote the Tale of Two Cities columns published in both the Chronicle and Europa Sur.

The commentaries are largely angled from a contemporary perspective.

The introduction is written by local poet Trino Cruz. The book, some 400 pages with illustrations, was launched in San Roque and will see another launch in Cadiz itself next month.

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GOVERNOR VISITS HERITAGE TRUST OFFICES

Governor Sir Francis and Lady Richards has paid a visit to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust Offices. The ancient building dates back to 1753 before the Great Siege. Welcoming the guests, Heritage Trust Chairman Joe Desoisa confessed that in the past they had felt inhibited from inviting anybody because of its poor state of repair but that the news by the Chief Minister earlier this year placing the whole building at the Trusts disposal meant they could begin with the restoration plans.

Mr Desoisa thanked the Governor and Lady Richards for their support over the past year, mentioning the annual painting competition which had the Convent Garden as its venue.

Mr Desoisa presented Sir Francis with one of the winning entries in the competition painted by Mario Finlayson.

During the visit the guests were shown the documents and maps which are housed by the Trust.

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Heritage Awards 2004

SCOUTS, MURPHY AND MOD RECOGNISED

1st/4th Gibraltar (Marquis of Milford Haven's) Scout Group have been given the Gibraltar Heritage Trust's Junior award for their "enthusiasm, hard work and dedication in undertaking the seemingly impossible task of clearing accumulated rubbish and refuse from Witham's Cemetery".

When the Scout Association (Gibraltar branch) announced its tercentenary programme, one of the subjects on offer was the preservation of Gibraltar's heritage. The 1st/4th Group asked the Trust to advise on a suitable project, which they could undertake. The Trust suggested the clearing of an accumulation of rubbish and refuse in this area and they promptly agreed to undertake this task.

This work entailed members of the Group working hard over a number of Saturdays, an obligation undertaken with great gusto. The Group removed more than 200 bags of rubbish.

After a break over the summer months the Group has resumed the task on an ongoing basis.

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Meanwhile the senior individual award went to John Murphy in recognition of his active participation and constant enthusiasm in the preservation and promotion of all aspects of Gibraltar's heritage.

"A richly deserved award, which brings to the fore the interest he has always shown in all matters of historical and heritage interest. He is well known for his organised tours of the Northern Defences of Gibraltar as well as his nature walks. Always on the lookout for infringements of the law affecting our heritage, he has never hesitated in bringing these to notice," said the Trust.

GROUP AWARD

The Group award has been given to the Ministry of Defence (Gibraltar) for the care and attention to detail devoted to the heritage-friendly refurbishment of Carter House (formerly 'E' Block), Naval Hospital Road.

"It is gratifying that property owners are becoming much more aware of the need to preserve our heritage and the Ministry of Defence (Gibraltar) now joins former recipients of the Award as heritage-conscious landlords, supporting the preservation of Gibraltar's heritage," said a Trust spokesperson.

The awards will be presented by the Minister for Heritage, Clive Beltran, on Thursday November 25 at 5.30pm at the Garrison Library.

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ST MICHAEL'S CAVE REVEALS PREHISTORIC ART TREASURE

In a major discovery for Gibraltar prehistoric art, engravings and tracings, have been found in St Michael's Cave, dating back to between 15,000 and 20,000 years, in the Solutrean period.

Professor Clive Finlayson, Director of the Gibraltar Museum, believes the painting of an Ibex, wild mountain goat, is equivalent to the discovery of the first Neanderthal finding because of its global significance. But the painting is not in some hidden corner and has been under our very noses all the time as thousands of visitors and theatre audiences walked right past. The experts say that there are very clear signs that this painting may be the first of many made by modern man in St Michael's Cave. A close investigation of the small painting identifies the horns, head and legs of the ibex in a very simply prehistoric drawing.

The project began a year ago at the entrance to St Michael's Cave. Black marks can be seen all over the cave walls but in the eyes of an expert the picture finds new meaning. The painting itself was discovered

by archaeologist Maria Dolores Simon from Cueva de Nerja, a specialist in pre-historic art, who forms part of a project being undertaken by the Gibraltar Museum and the Cueva de Nerja archaeologists, studying cave art in the Rock's caves. It has always been assumed that prehistoric paintings existed in the Rock's extensive cave system but this is the first major investigation.

The announcement of the discovery was made by Minister for Heritage Clive Beltran in St Michael's Cave yesterday afternoon. Excited about the prospect of what this latest project could unravel he gave the Gibraltar Government's whole-hearted support to it. The painting has been discovered in the main auditorium in the second tier of seating from the top on the right hand side. Whilst the works continue the area is being protected behind a partitioned wall but the Minister confirmed that as soon as the whole painting had been uncovered, dated and cleaned, it would be put in full view of the public for all to see.

It is believed that most of the walls of the cave were whitewashed during the Second World War. Part of the painting has been partly cleaned but most of it is still hidden behind the whitewash. The experts say that once completely cleaned this area of wall alone could reveal various other prehistoric art forms.

The removal of the whitewash is being carried out through the latest laser techniques. A trace of carbon will now be dated to discover the exact age of the painting. This is likely to be undertaken in laboratories in Florida.

This kind of art is extremely rare and there are very few sites in this part of the Iberian Peninsula. From the Gibraltar Museum's point of view, Professor Finlason believes, this is one of the most important discoveries in the last decade of investigation of the museum's extensive work.

There are similar cave paintings like these in the south of Spain, La Pileta and Nerja, and then there are concentrations of them in Cantabria and in South West France

"But when you add this finding to the archaeology, to the fact that we now have seven sites with Neanderthal occupation, two with fossils, this makes the Rock of Gibraltar, in terms of pre-history one of the Cathedral sites of the world," he affirmed.

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277 YEARS OF FREEMASONRY

A special service for Thanksgiving was held at St Andrew's Church on Saturday to celebrate 277 years of Freemasonry in Gibraltar. The ceremony at which the Governor, Chief Minister and Leader of the Opposition were present was held in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of the founding of St Andrew's Church of Scotland and Gibraltar's tercentenary celebrations. The service was officiated by the Dean of Gibraltar Alan Woods and Minister of St Andrew's Church Reverend Steward Lamont.

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TREE SURGEONS ON THE ROCK

This Friday's episode of the BBC 2 series on Kew Gardens (BBC2, 9pm) features the visit of the Kew tree surgeons to Gibraltar and the work that they did in managing the trees. This experienced team carried out a great deal of work here, and managed to do a "first" for them when they trimmed a Dragon Tree, a species that cannot grow to tree proportions in the UK. A spokesman for Alameda Gardens said the programme, which is proving extremely popular in Britain, will serve to promote Gibraltar and its Botanic Gardens.

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The FOGHS would like to thank Cadogan Travel and Mr Albert Poggio MBE for paying the postage of this newsletter.

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