
FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 64

FEBRUARY 2003

NEW MEMBERS: Joseph Oton, Mariluz Warwick, Frank Bado, Barclay Hankin, Bryan Douglas Walker, Kevin John Hart, Peter G. Kitson, Michael Luetchford, Michael and Sylvia Roberts, Norman Cox, Peter Kidson

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DISCOUNTS

The FOGHS discount is now 15%. From time to time there are special offers available so before making any travel decisions always contact Cadogan on 02380 828365.

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SUMMER VISIT TO GIBRALTAR 09-16 June 2003

Members fly out from Gatwick on the 9 June and stay at the Rock Hotel; they return on the 16 June.

INDIVIDUAL BOOKINGS ARE DIRECTLY WITH 'CADOGAN HOLIDAYS Ltd. ABTA V7066 CAATOL 078 AND ARE SUBJECT TO THE COMPANY'S BOOKING CONDITIONS AS DETAILED IN THE CADOGAN HOLIDAYS' GIBRALTAR AND SOUTHERN SPAIN BROCHURE. THE SOCIETY MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS AND ACCEPTS NO LIABILITY FOR THE TRAVEL ACCOMMODATION OR ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

The price is £557 nett per person and includes airport taxes and air passenger duty, handling and transfer from Gibraltar airport to hotel and hotel to airport. The room will have a view of Gibraltar Bay with balcony.

Supplement – £ 147 single room supplement. It is possible to fly out and return on different dates.

Although form E1 11 provides access to the Gibraltar Health Service you are advised to take out your own insurance.

The draft programme includes: Rock Gun - Rock Hotel cocktail party - Stay behind cave - Exhibition of photographs - GHT reception - tour of General Sikorski sites - Queen's Birthday Parade - Reception at North Front - Tunnel tour - Model soldiers exhibition - Queen's Birthday Party at the Convent - Ragged Staff magazine & Silent Pool - Bedenham Memorial - Rosia Bay and Royal Gibraltar Police.

If you wish to book please telephone Pascale Humphries on 02380 828365 and then advise Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

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SEMINAR, COCKTAIL PARTY AND DINNER NOVEMBER 2003

The 2003 seminar, cocktail party and dinner, chaired by Sir Derek Reffell, will be held at the Warwick Arms, Warwick on the 8 November. Those wishing to attend should fill in the form at the back of the newsletter.

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SEMINAR, COCKTAIL PARTY AND DINNER November 2002

The following members attended: Sir Derek and Lady Reffell, Joe and Muriel Desoisa, John and Dorothy Mizen, Alan and Rosean Miller, Tito and Ann Benady, Michael and Brenda Brufal, Ernest and Marcella Reading, John Borda, Roger and Eileen Hornsby, Colin and Lourdes Masters, Michael and Joan Wood, Peter and Muriel Gray, Reg and Christina Andlaw, Ronald and Beryl Powell, Stuart and Conti Brown, Peregrino Esteve Varea, Jon and Maria York, Paul Blake, David and Sandra Inker, James and Maria Schembri, John Clinton, Lesley Rakhra, Mary Hirst, Eirfron Williams, Brian and Paddy Treece, Simon and Christine Grummit, Jenny Penn, Oliver Wright, Peter and Anne Watson, Richard and Ditte Wells.

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OBITUARIES

The death has been announced of Samuel Alper, the founder of the FOGHS. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

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The death has been announced of Stuart Hamilton-Towler, a FOGHS founder committee member. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

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The death has been announced of Ralph Allen, who for many years was a manager of Barclays DCO, Gibraltar. The Society send its condolences to all members of his family.

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WEB MASTER'S REPORT by John Borda

FOGHS: www.foghs.org

Gibraltar Government: www.gibraltar.gov.gi

Gibraltar Gov Office UK: www.gibraltar.gov.uk

Gibraltar website: www.gibraltar.gi

Gibraltar Chronicle: www.chronicle.gi

Iberian News: www.iberianews.com

Panorama: www.panorama.gi

GBC Newswatch: www.gibnet.com/gbc/audio.htm

Gibraltar news: www.gibraltar.freeuk.com

London Gibraltar Society: www.gibraltar.pdg.gi

SDGG: www.self-determination.gi/

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CADOGAN HOLIDAYS has held a strong presence in Gibraltar for over fifty years, having been the first operator to promote the Crown Colony as a tourist destination.

The specialist company is part of the Bland Group, which is based on the Rock and also owns the major handling agents in Gibraltar, the four-star Rock Hotel and GB Airways - the major carrier to the destination.

An award-winning tour operator, Cadogan Holidays has held the Travel Weekly Golden Globe for the best short-haul specialist for the past five years, the TTG award for top independent tour operator and the equivalent top awards for Travel Bulletin and Selling Short Breaks. The Southampton-based company features only the best hotels in a wide range of destinations - Gibraltar, Portugal, Madeira, Southern Spain, Majorca, Canary islands, Morocco, Tunisia, Malta and Cyprus.

Tailor-made itineraries and multi-centre holidays can be arranged with scheduled flights, private transfers and total flexibility in the holiday duration - anything from two to 56 nights.

Cadogan has the pleasure in offering all FOGHS members specially discounted flight-only seat arrangements for the daily BA/GB Airways flights to Gibraltar.

Excellent child prices and single savers are also available as well as special group discounts. The Cadogan price pledge will guarantee that the company will not be beaten on price when it comes to identical holidays.

All Cadogan clients receive a complimentary guide book, map and international Discount Card with their tickets which provides savings at hundreds of shops and restaurants world-wide.

Discounted packages are also offered to The Rock Hotel with car hire, transfers, excursions and insurance available too.

Similarly special rates can be obtained to any of the destinations featured in any of the Cadogan Holidays brochures.

To make a booking, order a brochure or for further information, please contact Pascale Humphries on 023 80 828313 or fax 02380 228601.

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4 AUGUST 2004

The 4th August 2004 is the three hundredth anniversary of the capture of Gibraltar by Admiral Sir George Rooke. Consequently the FOGHS visit to Gibraltar in 2004 will take place from 30 July- 8 August to enable members to be on the Rock on this memorable day and take part in all the celebrations. Because seats on planes and hotel accommodation will be at a premium it is necessary to make advance reservations. Therefore members are asked to make bookings – at this stage without commitment – so that the required number of seats and rooms can be booked. Fifty places have already been booked so there are fifteen left. Do not forget that it is the early bird that catches the worm. The wardroom of HMS Rooke has been booked for a banquet to be held on 4th August.

The following members have put their names down without commitment. Now the pressure on airline tickets and Rock Hotel rooms is such, that those wishing to go will have to make a £20 deposit and should telephone Pascale Humphries on 02380 828365. As soon as the prices are available then a further £100 deposit will be required. Due to pressure on hotel rooms the dates for this visit are fixed and cannot be extended or contracted.

Captain Peter Elvin RN, Peter and Kay Fisher, Leslie and Elaine Piercy, Jerry Robinson, Richard and Sue Parsonson, Roger and Mimi Norwood, John Stubbs, Charles and Christine Grummitt, Simon and Roseanne Pack, Billy Robinson, four Inesons, Nat and Tricia Bruzon, Sir Albert and Lady McQuarrie, Trevor Hughes, Mike and Brenda Brufal, Peter and Anne Watson, Michael and Joan Woods, Andrew and Vivienne Matheson, David and Sandra Inker,

Ron and Beryl Powell, Roger and Mini Norwood, Richard and Ditte Wells, Jock and Anne-Marie Craven, Barry Boyd.

Anyone else who wishes to attend should telephone Pascale and then advise Michael Brufal 01252 652030 or e-mail lendinez@aol.com.

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12th JUNE 2004

The annual luncheon will be held on board *HMS Victory*. If you wish to put down your name, without commitment, please telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

Todate places have been reserved by Michael and Joan Wood, Peter and Kay Fisher, Captain Peter Elvin RN, Elizabeth McCutchan, Bill and Mary Brister.

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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. This might take the form of a letter saying that the writer had seen the Nelson's corpse on shore. That evening there will 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 been taken. Please telephone Brenda Brufal on 01252 621948.

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FUTURE OF NEWSLETTER

A member, who wishes to remain anonymous, complained to the FOGHS committee that this newsletter should not contain anything that might be deemed to be political. The FOGHS's honorary legal advisor looked up the constitution and upheld this complaint. Consequently this will be the last newsletter under the present editor.

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MEMBERS LETTERS

There have been so many letters published in the national press that there is just not space to include them in these pages. But keep up the good work and be ever vigilant.

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MEMBERS ACTIVITIES

These have been included in Rock jottings.

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ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The Lord Chamberlain and Lady Luce were the guests of honour at the annual luncheon held at the Royal Overseas League.

Members present included the Chairman and Lady Reffell, the Baroness Hooper, Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, Reggie Norton, Freda Stuart, Brenda Brufal, David Inker, Jean Micallef, Pepe Forbes, Sandra Inker, Peregrino Esteve-Varea, Maxime Torrents del Prats, Charles Micallef, Ted Ayrton, Leslie Piercy, Elaine Piercy, Maurice Xiberras, Peter Carter Ruck, Michael Brufal.

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REMINISCENCES

Gordon Fergusson writes: 'The recent death of Rear Admiral Philip Gick, (always known as 'Percy'), reminds me of an occasion at the Convent in November 1948 shortly after my arrival as A.D.C. to General Sir Kenneth Anderson. He and Lady Anderson gave a ball for the Home Fleet.

It had just got under way when the butler told me that I was wanted by the duty officer of H.M.S. Theseus, the aircraft carrier. A friendly voice on the telephone told me that two officers had just left the ship with the intention of gate crashing the ball. Being very new, but also aware that a not always friendly relationship had existed for many years between the Convent and the Mount, I deemed it wiser to tip off the Assistant Military Secretary, Ian Maclagan, of the situation, before going down to receive them

Just I reached the top of the stairs, there coming up towards me was a splendid pantomime horse with one starboard eye and one port flashing at me alternately. I managed to steer it past the ballroom and my intention was to give it a strong gin and tonic in the staff sitting room at the bottom of the back stairs. Just as we reached the bottom there was a bellow from the top. "Take that ridiculous garment off!" It was Captain Butler, the Chief Staff Officer at the Tower, a terrifying man with very bushy black eyebrows, The front legs were a Commander with a DSc & bar (Percy Gick) and the hind legs a Lieutenant with two DSOs. Sadly they declined my offer of a drink, but invited me on board next morning.

It was the custom of the Andersons to have people for coffee in the garden after chapel and we were there, when H.E. asked me what was all that about a horse coming to the party last night? "As a cavalry officer you should have had hay for it!" So all was well, but I understand that thereafter the horse was kept in a sea chest with nine padlocks!

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Paddy Treece has provided this account of her late father's memory of the tragedy on 4 July 1943. This reads:

"My father Harold Hewitt was a lighthouse keeper at Europa Point from 1924 to 1956 and was on watch on the night that General Sikorski's plane crashed. The lantern was not lit during the war but the Lighthouse keepers performed all the other duties. He was standing on the gallery, watching the searchlights criss crossing the sky, wondering what event could be so important so as to break the strict blackout regulations.

He saw what he thought was a small bird in one of the beams of light. It flew straight towards him and he put his hand over the bird as it hit him as it was obviously blinded by the strong light.

When he took the creature inside he found that it was not a bird but a Death's Head moth and that it was now dead. He put the moth into a hand made glass case made out of window glass and passe partout.

After my mother, myself and three sisters returned to Gibraltar in August 1944, post the evacuation, we were shown this wonderful creature. The colours remained vivid and it was easy to see the skull and crossbones effect.

My father always said that he had never seen, before or since, another of these moths, and so we have always connected the Death's Head moth with the Sikorski mystery, and as children we would implore our father to tell us the story again and again."

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Sir Albert McQuarrie writes: ‘When my company was constructing the Health centre in 1973, two cannon balls were unearthed after a very deep dig for the foundations. They were heavy and made of iron – one about six inches in diameter, the other about five. It is my belief that they were fired into Gibraltar by one of Admiral Rooke’s ships or from Spain during one of the attacks on Gibraltar.

When we left Gibraltar in the late 70s they were taken in a container to Scotland and remain in the same cardboard box they ere packed in before leaving the Rock. We now wonder what to do with them. I would welcome suggestions from members as to what to do with them. Perhaps the Gibraltar Heritage Trust might provide a good and secure home?’

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Madge Ducklin writes: ‘I visited Somerset House recently and was confronted by two portraits on either side of the main lobby. Acting Commander in Chief, Captain Hardy was on the right and Lord Admiral Collingwood on the left. I suggest that the 2005 annual lunch be held at Somerset House.’

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Christopher Tebley sent this poem written in 1868 by C.A. Ward.

Yes, and keep it still;
Lean on it safely. *Comus, line 584*

Britain belted by the sea,
Island of the fair and free.
Thou has ever gloriously
Held thine own.

Once the sea was thy domain,
Yes, and must be thine again:
Kings who cede can never reign:
Hold thine own.

Wouldst thou shut the Midland Sea,
Though all Europe hustled thee?
Keep in Tarik’s hill the key
At thy belt.

Quote to us no right of Spain,
Right with her was ever gain:
What the Moor took we have ta’en,
And we keep.

Is it justice east and west
Rules so widely, that ‘twere best
We should cede our tall Rooke’s nest
By the sea?

What we bought with blood and bone,
We will set out face as stone
To maintain and keep our own,
Thou we die

English mastiff is our breed,
Free to let blood as to bleed:
But to our nature’s not to cede,
Though we die.

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VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL

Brenda Brufal writes: ‘During recent FOGHS visits to Gibraltar I met the Bishop of Gibraltar, Monsignor Charles Caruana, several times and he expressed a keen interest in being more closely involved with the annual visit of the Friends to the Rock.

True to his word he very kindly met us at the Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned on the first day of our visit and gave us a guided tour of the Cathedral and a fascinating talk on the history of the Church in Gibraltar. He explained the special relationship between Gibraltar and Rome and how the Church in Gibraltar had developed, largely uninfluenced by the Church in the United Kingdom and the Spanish Church. He stressed how proud he was

of the religious toleration which exists in Gibraltar and drew our attention to the anomaly which existed on the Rock during the first and a half centuries of British occupation; Catholic emancipation did not exist in the United Kingdom yet in Gibraltar was supported by Anglican Governors.

The Bishop spoke of the help given to the Vatican during World War Two when Monsignor Grech helped to transfer to Rome funds collected by American Catholics. The vital service to the Church is still remembered with gratitude in the Vatican today.

Following our visit to the Cathedral we went on to visit the Sacred Heart Church where we were very warmly welcomed by Father Victor Ghio who very kindly gave us lunch and talked to us about the history of his church and his ambitious plans for its restoration to its former glory. We were all tremendously impressed by his vision and energy.

We then visited the Sacred Heart School accompanied by the headmaster, Mr Gonzalez. This visit was of great interest to our group for two reasons; firstly the Friends are helping in the restoration of the chapel's stained glass windows and secondly several of the group had very fond memories of their own schooldays there. We were all charmed by the children we met and the happy and caring atmosphere of the school. There can surely be very few schools which have such a splendid view and everyone remarked how lucky the children were to spend their schooldays in such delightful surroundings.

So our first day in Gibraltar was one to remember and we are very grateful to His Lordship the Bishop, to Father Ghio and to Mr Gonzalez for devoting so much of their time to us and for making us so welcome'.

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ROCK JOTTINGS

July 2001

The Foreign Office delivered its response to the Foreign Affairs Committee Report. This is to be found on the website www.parliament.uk/commons/selcom/foraffcom.htm

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Not many know that a Gibraltarian has been awarded the Victoria Cross. Lieutenant (later Brigadier General) Wallace Duffield Wright was decorated with the Victoria Cross by King Edward VII at Buckingham Palace on 5th November 1903. Wallace was born on the Rock on 20th September 1875. He was commissioned into the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Royal West Surrey regiment.

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The Gibraltar Government hosted a two day visit for foreign press correspondents based in Madrid. The party was lead by Adela Gooch who a couple of years ago addressed the FOGHS seminar.

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Brussels Process talks were held in London on 26 July. The Gibraltar Government regrets that it will not be possible for it to participate in the talks on this occasion. It looks forward to the opportunity to participate in future talks on the basis of its well known and long standing position and with the proper degree of advance notice.

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The Gibraltar Government has given planning permission to the Swedish firm, Skanska, to build a major residential development project at Catalan Bay.

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Christine Podesta has been appointed GBC News editor.

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Mary Bailie is the daughter of the late James Lochhead, JP, MA, MD, B.Sc, FRCS, and after the recent death of her mother, inherited a solid silver tray which has considerable historical significance for Gibraltar.

James was a Colonial Service doctor who practised on the Rock for several years until just before the second World War. Just before his departure he was presented with this tray inscribed with the names of some 34 babies he had brought into the world.

Nina, his wife, was awarded the MBE for her work with the Spanish refugees from the Civil War who were billeted on the racecourse (now the airfield).

They used to live in the Haven and James was a prominent Free Mason. He was a larger than life character and, although not a Catholic, managed to persuade the ecclesiastical authorities to change the habits of the Little Sisters of Mercy. He found that many of the sisters for no apparent reason suddenly required surgery. This puzzled him and soon discovered that this was caused by the sisters having to wear heavy petticoats that weighed more than a stone. The Bishop accepted that such a penance was injurious to the sisters' health and issued the necessary dispensation.

Her aunt, Marion, married Douglas Packard and the reception was held in the Rock Hotel. Douglas ended his career as Lt General Sir Douglas Packard.

The names on the tray include; Mickie Bowen, Reggie Norton, Nita Norton, Ernest Russo, Adolfo Russo, Ian Hankey, Patrica Hankey, Joe Gaggero, John Gaggero, Cecilia Gaggero, Trino Cruz Seruya, Moses Cruz Seruya, Louis Verano, Tin Russo, James Russo, Dora Abrines, Louis Abrines, Adela Abrines, Lianello Codali, Aurelia Restano, Dolly Haynes, John Haynes, Clem Haynes, Sylvia Haynes, Eileen Haynes, Louise Haynes, Paddy Cottrell, Tony Cottrell, Christine Cottrell, Paddy Imossi, Maruja Porral, Maite Porral.

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Gordon Fergusson, author of 'Hounds are Home – the History of the Royal Calpe Hunt' , made these comments about Lord Thomas of Swynnerton's comments about the Gibraltar problem.

"I regret to inform Lord Thomas that his idea for a solution to the Gibraltar problem is a non-starter.

None other than His Catholic Majesty King Alfonso XI once suggested to King George V that Great Britain should recognise Spanish sovereignty over Gibraltar and in return the Colony would be granted a 99 years' lease for the annual payment of One Pound Sterling, which the King of Spain should come in person to Gibraltar to collect. On this occasion the British and Spanish flags should fly together over the Rock. He suggested that a Spanish officer should be on the staff of the Governor of Gibraltar and a British one attached to the staff of the King of Spain. King George thought differently and it went no further.

Today the Gibraltarians would never accept such a proposal as they are more loyal to the British crown than the mainland Britons."

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The Lions Club of Gibraltar celebrated its 24th Anniversary Charter.

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Patricia Holland, daughter of Transito Pitman, whose grand father and great uncle ran a school in Pitman's Alley, is looking for news of the Pitman family and the location of the Pitman Mausoleum. She can be telephoned on 01225 421814.

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The Coaling Island Skating Park was opened by the Sports Minister.

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The European Teacher has published an article by E.G. Archer about Education in Gibraltar – A Thoroughly English System.

It can be read on the magazine's web site.

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Leslie and Mary Jinks live in Canada and hope to attend the 300th anniversary. They are direct descendants of Admiral Sir George Rooke.

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Environmental groups from the Campo de Gibraltar held a protest and demanded the removal of radio active ashes which remain stored in the Acerinox steel works.

XXXXX

Sir Patrick Cormack, Fabian Hamilton, Gisela Stuart and Greg Pope were appointed to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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The Rt. Rev. Dom Richard Yeo, Abbot of Downside, was elected Abbot-President of the English Benedictine Congregation.

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A FOGHS member registered an official complaint that the Jockey Disco, Calle Jondal, Ibiza was organising 'Gibraltar Espanol' evenings.

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Gibraltar's Select Committee into constitutional reform held its second sitting.

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The Chief Justice appeared in the Magistrates Court for allegedly operating without a valid MOT certificate. Edward Fitzgerald QC and Fabian Picardo appeared for the defence.

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SEPTEMBER 2001

In a National Day message, GSLP leader Joe Bossano that he stood by the principle 'of not giving up one square inch of our territory to Spain.'

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These Parliamentarians attended National Day as the guests of the Gibraltar Government. Lindsay Hoyle, Lord Bethell, Colin Breed, David Chidgey, David Causby, Fabian Hamilton, Nick Hawkins, Nigel Jones, Alan Keen, Andrew Rosindell, Richard Baife, Roy Perry, Giles Chichester, Jonathan Evans and Philip Bradbourn.

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The Bedenham Memorial was unveiled. This is a Gibraltar Heritage Trust and Taylor Woodrow project. Joe Desoisa said: 'The occasion marked an episode in Gibraltar's history which demonstrated once again that our British connection is not without its demands.'

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The Voice of Gibraltar pressure group is collecting keys – thousands have been collected including one from the Chief Minister. A spokesman said: 'This is an indication that Gibraltar is solidly behind the symbolism of the Key. The Key of our future is in the hands of the Gibraltarians and nobody else.'

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The Chief Minister, during a speech to mark the 10th National Day said: 'Today, Gibraltar is celebrating our identity, our aspirations as a people and our hopes for the future. Like other countries, when we are subjected to a challenge from abroad we unite in seeing off that challenge. This will send important political messages to London, Madrid, Brussels, Strasbourg and New York. And the messages are that the Gibraltarians will never compromise or give up their right to self determination. Not for good relations with anybody, and not for economic benefits either. Never. We will trade nothing. Nothing which is of any value to us as a community are we willing to put on any discussion table, let alone on any negotiating table. I demand respect for Gibraltar's European legal and political rights.'

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Peter Hain outlines Gibraltar's future and the Brussels Process. He said that the status quo is unsustainable and that the British Government has set an 18 month target to normalise the Gibraltar problem. (Available on Gibraltar Chronicle website.)

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GOHNS signed up as a full partner of Birdlife International.

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Josep Pique responded to the Hain interview by saying that total sovereignty over Gibraltar is and always will be the Spanish Government's objective.

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The Masonic Calpe Lodge celebrated its 175th anniversary.

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The Chief Minister boycotted the annual meeting of the British Overseas Territories as a result of Gibraltar's exclusion from the European Single Sky measures. At the meeting the Chief Minister went against the Foreign Office line and expressed support for Peter Caruana and the Gibraltarians.

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Bishop Charles Caruana called for the community to ensure that the mutual respect amongst the various faiths in Gibraltar continues following the terrorist acts last week in America.

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Tony Hardman, National President of NASUWT, paid an official visit to Gibraltar.

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Peter Hain and Ramon de Miguel held talks in Madrid about the Gibraltar (Spanish) problem.

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Jaime Levy called for Government and Opposition to unite behind a common agenda to defend Gibraltar's international interests.

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Nynex and Gibtel completed their merger.

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The Chief Minister wrote to the European Commission President to complain about the Commission's failure to safeguard Gibraltar's interests.

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OCTOBER 2001

The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that its top priority is to recover the sovereignty of Gibraltar. A senior official said that joint use of the airport is inevitable within the next two years (October 2003).

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Once again the EU Presidency has been unable to submit a de-colonisation agreement about Gibraltar to present to the United Nations Fourth Committee.

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The Chief held a reception at the Labour Party Conference.

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More than 10,000 Gibraltarians took to the streets to protest against against Gibraltar's exclusion from the EU Single Skies measure.

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The Chief Minister addressed a meeting at the London School of Economics.

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The Chief Justice Derek Schofield declared that the criminal aid system has broken down and that the Government has a duty to provide a workable system of legal aid. He also said that until Constitutional reform takes place the present 1969 Constitution must be adhered to in letter and spirit.

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Michael Bonifacio was ordained priest by Bishop Charles Caruana.

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The Chief Minister held a meeting with the Foreign Secretary.

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Both the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition addressed the UN Fourth Committee in New York.

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The ABC has found a un-revealed clause in the Treaty of Utrecht. It states: 'This is a marginal and forgotten clause which remains binding and provides a reason for the eventual retrocession of sovereignty to the Spanish Crown. It was agreed that if the Catholic religion was ever endangered in Gibraltar then the Rock would revert back to His Catholic Majesty Felipe V or his successors.

This was agreed in the event of a Muslim invasion from North Africa.'

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Bishop Frank Walmsley, Bishop of the Forces, presided at a Mass said at St Bernard's Church when the new stained glass windows were dedicated and blessed. Also present were Bishop Charles Caruana, Dom Francis Little and Father Charles Bruzon. The four windows depict the Coat of Arms of the Bishop of the Forces: the symbols of Baptism: the symbols of the Eucharist: Berini's modern representation of the Holy Spirit.

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Jack Straw telephoned Peter Caruana and told him that Gibraltar would be excluded from a EC Commission proposal for framework regulation on aviation security.

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The Thomas More Society has agreed to the establishment on the Rock of its first branch outside the United Kingdom. It will be organised by Father John Pardo and Guy Stagnetto QC.

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Lord Garel-Jones wrote a 'In My Opinion' column in which he urges Gibraltar 'to seize the moment.'

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Joe Ullger was appointed Commissioner of the Royal Gibraltar Police.

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Lord Merrivale received the Freedom of the City of Gibraltar from Mayor Judge John Alcantara.

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The second annual Gibraltar Day in the City of London was held on 23 October. A glittering reception was held at the Drapers' Hall.

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David Blunt has succeeded Paul Spellar as Deputy Governor. He is married to Geirid Bakkeli, a Norwegian and they have three sons.

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Joe Bossano addressed the Forum 2000 in Madrid on the subject of Gibraltar's future.

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Voice of Gibraltar congratulated Sir Derek Reffell for stating that the British Government lacked courage. Sir Derek said 'It is really time that rather than just saying they're going to defend Gibraltar, the British Government did something about it. Actions speak louder than words. What is needed is action, instead of giving way every time there is a confrontation.'

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The Guardian revealed on the 29 October that shared sovereignty is being discussed between the British and Spanish governments as being the only solution to the Gibraltar problem .

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NOVEMBER 2001

Josep Pique warned the British Government not to give the Gibraltarians to right to veto anything agreed by the Spanish and British Governments.

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Hassans and the TGWU agreed to supply members with a free will service.

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Dr Geoffrey Rowell was enthroned at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity as Bishop for Gibraltar in Europe.

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The Calpe Rowing Club celebrated its 125th anniversary.

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The Baroness Hooper tabled a motion about the Gibraltar for debate in the House of Lords. This will enable the British Government to respond to the evidence given by the Chief Minister and Peter Hain to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

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Father Charles Bruzon was commissioned into the Territorial Army.

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Joe Gaggero, Chairman of GB Airways, was invited by the Chairman of Royal Air Maroc to address 200 sales delegates at a conference in Casablanca.

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Mrs Marguerite Gache, widow of Major Alfredo Gache, has offered the Flying Major's personal political papers to the Government archivist.

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The Prince of Wales was represented by Field marshal Sir John Chapple at the Memorial Service for the victims of the tragic events in the United States of America held in St Paul's Cathedral.

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The Chief Minister challenged the Spanish Foreign Minister to refer the question of whether the Gibraltarians had the right to self determination to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion.

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The Bland Group has donated to the Guild of Air Pilots and Air navigators a flying scholarship to train a commercial pilot.

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The Chief Rabbi invited Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy to join him in a conversation about immigration into the United Kingdom. The theme was 'Love the Stranger'.

XXXXX

Shadow Foreign Secretary, Michael Ancram, said: " Gibraltar has a long and historic friendship with Great Britain. Conservatives are aware of the needs and wishes of the Gibraltarians. For example, we were quick to condemn Spanish Foreign Minister Pique's references to Gibraltar as an 'economic parasite'. All too often Labour has neglected the interests of overseas territories, while at the same time interfering too much in their internal affairs. The Conservative Party will continue to defend the rights of the Gibraltarians and to press the Government to take a firm stance in defence of the rights of the people of Gibraltar.

By not responding to the issue of joint sovereignty, the Labour Government have given the impression to the Spanish Government that there is an 'open door' where the sovereignty issue is concerned. It must be made clear to the Spanish that the wishes of the Gibraltarians should be central to any discussions concerning the status of Gibraltar.'

XXXXX

The Chief Minister on Radio Ser said that the Gibraltar Government will not attend any bilateral talks between the Spanish and British governments.

XXXXX

The Foreign Office cancelled a visit to the Rock by John MacGregor. He was due to try and persuade the Chief Minister to attend the next meeting under the Brussels Process.

XXXXX

There was debate on Gibraltar in the Westminster Hall at the instigation of Lindsay Hoyle.

XXXX

Lord Bethell had a letter on Gibraltar published in The Times

XXXXX

Cadogan Holidays was voted the top independent tour operator in the Mother Country following a nationwide poll of travel agents in the TTG trade magazine.

XXXXX

Tony Blair and Jose Maria Aznar met at Number 10 Downing Street.

XXXXX

Ewen MacAskill, diplomatic editor of the Guardian, said that he stood by every word in his article published on the 29th October. He visits the Foreign office nearly every day and he has heard no word of criticism. He pointed out that Peter Hain has never denied the story. Naturally Ewan could not disclose his source but he said the story was as accurate as if it had come out of the mouth of Peter Hain. (See Guardian web site).

XXXXX

Peter Caruana met Carlos Bastareche, the Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, for informal talks.

XXXXX

Lady Jackson said how proud she is that General Sir William Jackson's words – Gibraltar is not Spain's to claim or Britain's to give away - about Gibraltar has been repeatedly used in the present battle to obtain the inalienable right to self determination and to ensure that there will be no tampering with the preamble to the Constitution.

XXXXX

Gary David, chairman of the UKGTA and managing director of Cadogan Holidays, was appointed a director of the Association of British Travel Agents.

XXXXX

Commodore Richard Clapp was appointed Commander British Forces.

XXXXX

Tony Blair said that in his opinion it is important that the Brussels process goes forward and that it is right that it should for the interests of Britain and the interests of the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The Diocese of Cadiz has opened the cause of the Canonisation of the Gibraltar nun, Simi Cohen, known as Mother Maria Dolores del Amor de Dios.

Simi was born in Gibraltar in 1801, converted to Catholicism as a young woman and joined the enclosed Augustian Order in Medina Sidonia. She died in 1887.

XXXXX

The Chief Justice Derek Schofield was fined £50 after being found guilty of having driven a motor vehicle without a valid certificate of insurance.

XXXXX

Michael Ancram visited Gibraltar on the 19/20 November; it was no coincidence that the Brussels Process were held in Barcelona on 20 November.

XXXXX

Roseanne Gaggero has been appointed a governor of New Hall, Chelmsford. This is the oldest independent girls school in the United Kingdom and has educated more Gibraltarian girls than any other public school.

XXXXX

A spokesman for the Moroccan Embassy said that the stories about the retrocession or partial retrocession sovereignty of Gibraltar to Spain were being followed with interest, naturally it follows that whatever happens to Gibraltar will also happen to the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla. The Moroccan Government does not accept the Spanish argument that Ceuta and Melilla are part of Spain; they are Moroccan sovereign territory.

XXXXX

Does any member know anything about a battle called the 'gut of Gibraltar' which took place in 1801?

XXXXX

The Chief Minister was interviewed on the BBC 24 Television programme 'Hardtalk'.

XXXXX

The Corporation of the City of London were the hosts at a dinner at the Mansion House to mark the tercentenary of the Bevis Marks Synagogue. Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy and Lord Woolf, the Chief Justice, were the guests speakers.

XXXXX

A Brussels Process meeting was held between Jack Straw and Josep Pique at Barcelona on 20 November.

XXXXX

Bishop Charles Caruana concelebrated a special Mass at the Cathedral of St Mary the Crowned on 20 November and it was offered 'for the future good of Gibraltar, that justice will prevail and that the wishes of the people will be respected at all levels.'

XXXXX

The Chief Minister and the Minister for Europe appeared before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 28 November.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister briefed the members of the Foreign Press Association at a meeting held in Carlton Gardens. More than 50 journalists were present. This prompted one veteran national newspaper journalist to say that as Francis Cantos had persuaded so many journalists to turn out on a cold winter evening he was worth his weight in gold. A Gibraltarian passing by at that precise moment riposted – was that before or after his current diet.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister announced the formation of an External Affairs Advisory Council.

XXXXX

Gibraltar was included in a new fast track extradition treaty signed by the British and Spanish governments.

XXXXX

Lieutenant General Sir John Reith, Chief of Joint Operations, visited Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Joe Bossano was interviewed on ‘Cita en la 2’ on TVE2.

XXXXX

Peter Hitchens, the Mail on Sunday journalist, organised a Save Gibraltar petition which he presented to John MacGregor, Director for Europe.

XXXXX

TGWU General Secretary, Bill Morris, pledged the union’s full support for the inalienable right of the Gibraltarians to genuine self-determination.

XXXXX

A meeting was held at the Royal Commonwealth Society between Sir Frederic Bennett, Sir Robert Peliza and Maurice Xiberras to clarify what had been the intentions of those who drafted the Preamble to the 1969 Constitution.

XXXXX

After a strange statement by Jack Straw in the House of Commons, the Gibraltar Government said: ‘Jack Straw appears to be the first ever British Foreign Secretary to refer to Spain’s separate claim to sovereignty over the isthmus without asserting confidence in British sovereignty over it.’

XXXXX

John Galliano was awarded the CBE by the Queen. The Gibraltarian designer wore a morning coat but without a shirt. He said ; ‘I think that Her Majesty is sublime – fantastic. She has created a style of her own as has the Queen Mother. I have fantasised about designing for them both but I don’t think I could take the job on.’

XXXXX

More than 120 Parliamentarians have joined the Gibraltar Parliamentary Group.

XXXXX

DECEMBER 2001

Paul Noon, General Secretary of Prospect UK, write to Jack Straw informing him that some 100,000 of his members supported the inalienable right of the Gibraltarians to self determination.

XXXXX

Vin Mifsud and her pupils held an exhibition of their works.

XXXXX

Seamus Byrne and Aaron Caballero came third in the dance duet section of the World Dance Championships.

XXXXX

Steven Linares took part in a Council meeting at Brussels of the European Liberal Democrats.

XXXXX

George White and Melvin Farrell have been asked to determine how many Gibraltarians are registered and of this number how many live on the Rock and how many are expatriate. It has come to light that many expatriate Gibraltarians – in particular females who have married non Gibraltarian males – do not bother to register their children who were not born on the Rock.

XXXXX

Bishop Frank Walmsley, the former Bishop to the Forces and currently Administrator of the Forces, nunc pro tunc, said that he was horrified at the apparent connivance between the British and Spanish Governments to force the Gibraltarians to agree to a retrocession of sovereignty. His advises the Gibraltarians to carry on fighting for their inalienable right to determine their own political future.

XXXXX

Dr Denis MacShane said: ‘in essence the British Government’s position over Gibraltar is A. Gibraltarians will vote on any change B. The British and Spanish Governments are sensibly discussing all the issues surrounding the Gibraltar problem C. The Chief Minister is boycotting these discussions.

What he hopes to achieve by such behaviour is beyond me. I have spent my life negotiating. Only the old style communists used to demand vetoes before talks had even begun. Let me give this assurance which is that Gibraltarians and only Gibraltarians will vote on their future definite status.’

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government has launched its Heritage publications series with the publication of two booklets and a leaflet. ‘Gibraltar during the Quaternary’ is co-edited by Clive Finlayson, Dureen Fa and Geraldine Finlayson; ‘Deadly Visitations in Dark Time’ written by Larry Sawchuk of Toronto University; and the leaflet ‘Gibraltar – A journey through time’ co-authored by the Gibraltar Museum and the University of Huelva.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister visited Barcelona to address the ‘Tribuna’ debating forum.

XXXXX

Fernando Moran, the former Spanish Foreign Minister, who together with Lord Howe, signed the Brussels agreement of 1984, wrote a detailed opinion in El Pais. He spells out the political and legal reasons why he believes the Gibraltarians do not have the right to self-determination. He goes on to express his deep shock that today’s Spanish politicians do not empathise with the feelings of the Gibraltarians. He advocates that these politicians take a closer look at life on the Rock and the fostering of good relations with its inhabitants. Fernando does not see a possible failure of the Brussels process as being the end-all of Spanish attempts to obtain a retrocession of sovereignty but rather as a foundation stone upon which a greater understanding can be built.

XXXXX

The Leader of the Opposition presented a motion at the House of Assembly which states that the British Government has no constitutional authority to enter into discussions or negotiations with the Spanish Government to alter Gibraltar’s terms of membership of the European Union.

XXXXX

Admiral Sir Derek Reffell published an article in The European Journal in which he criticises the Spanish Government’s constant bullying of Gibraltar and the British Government’s failure to stand by its colony.

XXXXX

Peter Isola, the grand old man of Gibraltar politics, advised local politicians to unite or fail.

XXXXX

The Louis Triay sailing team (father and son) won a vast amount of silverware at this year’s series of competitions.

XXXXX

The Foreign Secretary and the Minister for Europe received members of the Gibraltar Parliamentary lobby for a no holds discussion on Gibraltar’s future. The ministers stressed time and time again that nothing will be done on any aspect of life on the Rock without being approved in a Referendum by the majority of citizens of Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Peter Hain was asked to explain why he indicated to the Foreign Affairs Committee that the Spanish Government had withdrawn its veto to EU nationals resident on the Rock from voting in the approaching European Parliamentary election in 2004. He failed to provide a satisfactory answer especially as the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that this was not the case; the Spanish Government veto remained in place. The only way forward is for the British Government to use the Simon Hughes route –primary legislation through Parliament.

XXXXX

Mike Levy of the Key Stage Company, Cambridge, has suggested that in view of the abundant musical talent on the Rock, consideration should be given to producing a musical to mark the 300th anniversary of the capture of Gibraltar in 1704.

XXXXX

The officers of the Gibraltar Parliamentary lobby are Chair: Lindsay Hoyle, (Labour), Vice Chair: The Baroness Hooper (Conservative), Tony Colman (Labour), Paul Keetch (Liberal-Democrat), Hon Secretary :Andrew Rosindell (Conservative), Hon Treasurer: Eleanor Laing (Conservative).

XXXXX

Peter Hain, during a European Atlantic dinner, said that the Foreign Secretary had sent a letter to the Chief Minister advising him that he could attend the next round of the Brussels process talks under the Hurd formula of two, flags three voices.

The Chief Minister denied this and wrote ‘In his letter to me dated 23rd October 2001, the Foreign Secretary, while making a passing reference to ‘two flags, three voices, then went on to invite me to attend the talks on the 20th November on terms that are indistinguishable from the terms on which Gibraltar used to participate in the mid-1980s. This is not the Hurd ‘two flags, three voices’ formula.

XXXXX

The Baroness Symons introduced a new word into the Gibraltar problem lexicon – the concept of legal sovereignty as opposed to the sovereignty in the Preamble to the 1969 Constitution.

XXXXX

The Foreign Affairs Committee published its latest report about Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The General Assembly of the United Nations has urged the British and Spanish governments to continue their negotiations on a range of matters related to that questions, including the issue of sovereignty, with the aim of reaching a definitive solution.

XXXXX

Gibraltar was included in an EU inter-regional programme involving Spain, Southern France and Portugal.

XXXXX

Lord Brett, the former IPMS (now Prospect) General Secretary, visited the Rock to brief himself as to local political opinions.

XXXXX

‘Gibraltar Calling’ by Malcolm Beanland was published in time for the Christmas market. It is the history of telephone services on the Rock from 1886 to 2001.

XXXXX

The Governor, in his Christmas message said that the Gibraltarians will have the final say if there is an agreed outcome to the talks between the British and Spanish governments over the future of the Rock.

XXXXX

Lorna Swift was awarded the Gibraltar Award for services to the community.

XXXXX

Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy spoke at a meeting of the Jewish Historical Society. His topic was the 13th century Mitveh unearthed in the City of London.

XXXXX

The Baroness Symons told members of the Gibraltar Parliamentary lobby that she could see no reason why the Prime Minister has not held a meeting with the Chief Minister, She promised that when she next sees Tony Blair she will suggest vigorously that he meets Peter Caruana, ideally before the next round of the Brussels process talks.

XXXXX

JANUARY 2002

The European Commission’s Petitions Committee has admitted for consideration a complaint by the Spanish ex-Gibraltar workers association (ALPEG) against the Gibraltar Government for the payments of outstanding pension payments dating to 1990.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister met Carlos Bastarreche Sagues at a formal working lunch in the Campo. Peter Caruana had talks the next day with Sir Emyr Jones –Parry.

XXXXX

Sir Emyr Jones-Parry is the mandarin who dusted down the Falkland Islands Memorandum of Understanding between the British and Argentine governments and sold the idea to the Prime Minister. He said before his departure from the Rock that any agreement between the British and Spanish governments would be put to the Gibraltarians in a referendum.

XXXXX

Peter Hain did not have the common courtesy to reply to the formal invitation made by the Constitutional Reform Committee of the House of Assembly for the Minister for Europe to appear before its members.

XXXXX

The publication of the European Liberal Democrat has published a front page story supporting the rights of the Gibraltarians to self determination and to full EU rights.

XXXXX

El Pais reported that the British and Spanish governments are studying the possibility of settling the Gibraltar problem on the basis of agreeing joint sovereignty.

XXXXX

The Minister of Tourism launched a campaign around the slogan 'Gibraltar – Home from Home.' This was featured on the sides of London taxis and posters in the London underground.

XXXXX

Travelscene, the short break specialist, reported that Gibraltar is the sixth strongest growth destination with a 50% increase in sales over 2000.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government took up the remarks in El Pais and fiercely rejected the concept of 'done deals' being put before the Gibraltarians in a referendum organised by the Foreign Office.

XXXXX

The Leader of the Opposition flew to London to lobby Parliamentarians and to be interviewed by the media.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister told BBC Radio 4 that the Gibraltarians do not want any share of British sovereignty to be handed to the Spanish Government. 'What we have at worst are proposals which if rejected by the Gibraltarians do not disappear but remain as a sword of Damocles hanging over our heads.'

XXXXX

The PSOE leader, Jose Luis Rodriguez, in a speech at Algeciras, backed cross-border reconciliation.

XXXXX

Lt Col. Charles Norton died at the age of 88. In 1958 he was appointed the first CO of the Gibraltar Regiment and was one of the fifty who joined the Gibraltar Defence Force in 1939.

XXXXX

A photograph of Mari Lou Guerrero was published on the front cover of the newsletter of the World Association for Small and Medium Businesses.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister met the Foreign Secretary on 25 January.

XXXXX

The UK Gibraltar Tourism Association agreed to extend the term of Chairman from one to three years. Gary David, managing director Cadogan Holidays, the present chairman will serve for this extra period.

XXXXX

Ron McGerity, a cyclist who raises money for charity, cycled over 28 days the 2,752 kilometres from Geneva to Gibraltar. Upon arrival he said: 'I can now say I am solid as the Rock.'

XXXXX

Sir Emyr Jones Parry sent Catherine Colloms on assignment to Gibraltar to act as his eyes and ears. Although she had an office in the Convent she did not report to the Governor as her secondary brief was to try and persuade Gibraltarians about the value of the current Brussels process talks. This proved to be totally counterproductive and she returned to London a few months later.

XXXXX

Cadogan Holidays won the Travel Weekly Golden Globe for the best short-haul specialist in the Mother Country.

XXXXX

The Labour Party at Westminster has published a confidential briefing about the Gibraltar problem. It is totally against the oft expressed wishes of the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government has started a long-term project to open up the intricate network of tunnels which will be sold as major tourist attraction. It will include the Northern Defences and the Moorish Castle and will take about a decade to complete.

XXXXX

Andrew MacKinlay, in the course of six hours attended meetings of the Gibraltar Parliamentary Group, the Foreign Affairs Committee and joined the officers of the GPG for a dinner in honour of the Joe Bossano.

XXXXX

Rebecca Faller held a meeting Brussels with Pat Cox MEP, President of the European Parliament.

XXXXX

The Mayor of Algeciras made a public apology to the Chief Minister for the absurd statements and false accusations made during the past few months.

XXXXX

Peter Mandelson, Chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Group, signed an Early Day Motion calling on the Gibraltar Government to take part in the current dialogue between the British and Spanish Governments.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government stated that the Spanish Government's offer of an additional 70,000 telephone lines is politically and commercially unacceptable.

XXXXX

The Constitutional Committee of the House of Assembly approved the Constitutional proposals to decolonise Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Officers of the Anglo-Spanish Parliamentary Group are: Peter Mandelson (Chair), Donald Anderson, Robert Jackson, Margaret Moran, Lord Kilclooney (Vice-chairs), John Butterfill (Hon Secretary), Lady Golding and Lord Temple-Morris (Hon Treasurers).

XXXXX

David Brighty has been appointed chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Society in succession to Sir Robert Fern.

XXXXX

John Macgregor remains as Director, Wider Europe but responsibility for Gibraltar has been taken away from him and given to James Bevan, Director South East Europe. The link between the Foreign Office and No 10 Downing Street remains Sir Emyr Jones Parry who has spent 70% of his time in the Gibraltar problem during the past few months.

XXXXX

The guidance from Downing Street is that the debates and other Parliamentary activity at Westminster gives false impression of the amount of support enjoyed by Gibraltar. It the Downing Street view that this does not reflect the true state of opinion amongst backbenchers. Such suggestions were laughed out of court by Lindsay Hoyle.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister, after his meeting with the Foreign Secretary, said that important differences remained with the British Government in particular Convent Place's condition that nothing prejudicial should survive if the eventual proposals are rejected by the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The majority of members of the Foreign Affairs Committee who visited Madrid to discuss the Spanish Presidency of the EU were incensed by a report posted by PA. This claimed that the FAC's view was that it was up to the British and Spanish governments to arrive at a negotiated solution. These MPs are in no way suggesting that the PA is making up this statement; they said it was said unattributably by the few members who support the Foreign Office view.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister said that the Gibraltar Government would not take part in any negotiations where the political and conceptual concessions of an Anglo-Spanish deal would survive on the table as a Magna Carter of parameters for the future even if rejected by the Gibraltarians in a referendum.

XXXXX

The House magazine, the journal of Parliament, published three pages about the Gibraltar problem.

XXXXX

Anthony Provasoli succeeded Robert Vasquez as Chairman of the Bar Council.

XXXXX

Franco Cassar succeeded Iain Currie as Chairman of the Gibraltar Bankers' Association.

XXXXX

FEBRUARY 2002

Some 2000 attended a demonstration which drew attention to the wish that Gibraltar must be kept British.'

XXXXX

The Government Services Minister inaugurated the Reverse Osmosis Desalination plant, installed and operated by Lyonnaise de Eaux (Gibraltar) Ltd.

XXXXX

The Foreign Secretary, in an article in the Gibraltar Chronicle, wrote that the British Government is seeking only to do its best for Gibraltar and the Gibraltarians. The Gibraltar problem must be faced and the only way to arrive at a solution is through dialogue. The status quo does not meet the needs of any of the parties. There is nothing inevitable about the outcome of the current dialogue. If a framework of proposals can be reached that nothing can be agreed with the majority consent of the Gibraltarians. he went on to attempt to offer a financial inducement by saying that a resolution of all the differences would make it much easier to ensure EU support for transition in dealing with issues such as the Rock's tax status.

XXXXX

A Brussels process meeting was held in London between the British and Spanish Foreign Secretaries.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister met the President of the European Parliament during a visit to Strasbourg to lobby MEPS and opinion formers. He said that Gibraltar would opt for a constitutional freeze rather than be forced to accept joint sovereignty.

XXXXX

Colonel Tom Camp has succeeded Colonel Tony Moorby as Chief of Staff and deputy CBF.

XXXXX

The Governor planted a cork oak in the Convent gardens to mark the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

XXXXX

Councillor Hillary Vines, Mayor of Southwark, flew to the Rock for a full briefing and update on the Gibraltar problem.

XXXXX

The Baroness Hooper, a member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, during the last session in Strasbourg took up the question of the British Government's denial of the inalienable right of the Gibraltarians to self determination. She is also taking an active interest in ensuring that the British Government implements the ruling in the Matthews case.

XXXXX

Pepe Morello held his sixth exhibition on 'Gibraltar's Memorabilia.'

XXXXX

The Chief Minister addressed members of the Cambridge Union about Gibraltar's right to self-determination.

XXXXX

The Minister for Trade and the Finance Centre Director met Swiss Parliamentarians as part of ongoing discussions about financial issues.

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that the Gibraltar Government's terms for attendance at Brussels process talks are impossible to meet.

XXXXX

The following Parliamentarians visited Gibraltar: Lindsay Hoyle, Roy Beggs, Edward Garnier, Lady Golding, Brian Jenkins, Dr Kumar, Bob Luxton, David Hamilton, Geraldine Smith, Andrew Rosindell and Nigel Evans.

XXXXX

Brian Navarro, 20, was killed after his car was smashed by a rock fall at the entrance to the tunnel close to Both Worlds.

XXXXX

A company of Royal Marines, which included the MP Andrew Rosindell, during an exercise landed by mistake on a La Linea beach rather than Western beach. The officer in charge will never live down this map reading error.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister asked Ian Paisley not to visit Gibraltar as his presence would be unhelpful.

XXXXX

Peter Isola Junior succeeded Bruno Callaghan as President of the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce.

XXXXX

The Minister for Trade and Industry opened GFSB House –the headquarters of the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses.

XXXXX

BBC Northern Ireland sent Northern Ireland Assembly members Alban Maginness (SDLP) and Robert McCartney (Unionist) to film a documentary about Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Simon Hughes MP visited Gibraltar at the invitation of the Gibraltar Liberal Party.

XXXXX

It was standing room only for the Chief Minister's press conference at the Foreign Press Association in Carlton Gardens. The meeting was chaired by the urbane Ali Bahjoiub, the formidable European correspondent of the Maghreb Arab Press.

XXXXX

Nigel de Gruchy, General Secretary of the NASUWT, flew to the Rock to give support to the members of the Gibraltar Teaching Association.

XXXXX

Gary David, managing director of Cadogan Holidays, said that ten years ago, none of the major operators featured Gibraltar. Now virtually all the leading city-break specialists do. In the coming months the UKGTA will be running a major push to the travel trade.

XXXXX

Commander Bob Sanguinetti, R.N. was awarded the French 'Croix de Valeur Militaire for the contribution played by HMS Grafton during French led coalition operations in the Adriatic in 1998.

XXXXX

MARCH 2002

Peter Isola celebrated his fiftieth year at the Gibraltar Bar with a gala dinner at the Rock Hotel.

XXXXX

Solomon Seruya gave a talk to the Rotary Club of San Roque on 'El Contencioso de Gibraltar.'

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that Gibraltarians should not see Spain as a threat but as an opportunity for the future.

XXXXX

The Royal Engineers held the third annual Royal Engineers Weekend. It celebrates the founding of the Royal Engineers in Gibraltar on 6 March 1772 and also allows a contingent of Royal Engineers to exercise their right as Freemen of the City of Gibraltar, to march through the streets with bayonets fixed and drums beating.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government announced the formation of a Sports Authority under the executive command of Joe Hernandez.

XXXXX

The Baroness Hooper tabled a starred question about the British Government's current lack of success in ensuring that the EU citizens resident on the Rock are enfranchised in time for the 2004 elections for the European Parliament.

XXXXX

The MOD refused to grant permission for the use of the Naval Ground as an assembly point for the demonstration to be held on March 18.

XXXXX

Michael Ancram said that the next Conservative Government would not be bound by any agreement signed by the British and Spanish Governments. This statement caused consternation within the Spanish Government.

XXXXX

Andrew Rosindell, the extreme Right Wing Conservative MP said that the Treaty of Utrecht is obsolete and that the British Government should consider the integration of Gibraltar to recognise its historic debt to the Rock and its inhabitants.

XXXXX

A Spanish Doctor in Law has published a thesis which calls for a solution to the Gibraltar problem through the Spanish Government being given perpetual territorial use of the Rock but would never be granted territorial or jurisdictional sovereignty.

XXXXX

The Prime Minister stated that a referendum on any Anglo-Spanish proposals on the future of Gibraltar is the ultimate safeguard for the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time was recorded in the gardens of the Convent.

XXXXX

The Anglo Hispano Company organised the first ever Wine Fair on the Rock.

XXXXX

The Baroness Symons told the Baroness Hooper that EU nationals resident on the Rock would be able to vote in a constituency, yet to be selected, in the 2004 European Parliamentary elections.

XXXXX

OECD has recognised Gibraltar's commitment to improve the transparency of its tax and regulatory systems and to establish effective exchange of information for tax matters OECD countries by 31 December 2005. This comes with the Gibraltar Government making clear to the OECD that it expects a level playing field and recognition of its fiscal autonomy.

XXXXX

The European Council issued a statement on Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Dr Denis MacShane said: 'The Tories think that the high peaks of foreign policy consist of defending to the death the tax privileges of the citizens of Gibraltar.'

XXXXX

24,000 persons took part in the demonstration protesting against the decision by the British Government to talk to the Spanish Government about joint sovereignty.

XXXXX

A MORI poll said that 79% of public opinion in the Mother Country believed that the Gibraltarians should have the right to determine their own future.

XXXXX

The Culture Minister opened the Rock's first Fine Art Gallery.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister addressed the Welsh Assembly.

XXXXX

The Spanish Government at long last opened a second channel for cars entering Spain. Alas another channel coming into Gibraltar was not opened. No doubt several years will have to pass before this becomes reality.

XXXXX

The Defence Minister said that Gibraltar is, and always will be an important overseas base for the British Armed Forces.

XXXXX

Thomas Haynes displayed his collection of maps and charts of the Bay of Gibraltar at an exhibition at the John Mackintosh Hall. It was organised by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and FOGHS. It is normally on permanent exhibition at the la Linea museum. This in itself is puzzling as all the maps and charts call the Bay by its correct nomenclature the Bay of Gibraltar. This is deemed to be a mortal sin by those in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

XXXXX

Banque Jacob Safra (Gibraltar) has been incorporated and registered in Gibraltar. It has a capital of £6.6 million.

XXXXX

Reggie Norton wrote to Tony Blair giving notice of his resignation from the Labour Party because of the British Government's hostility towards Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The British and Spanish Governments have agreed on a system that will leave Gibraltar out of EU aviation matters which are linked to Gibraltar airport. This is due to the Spanish Government's separate claim over the isthmus.

XXXXX

Two RAF fighter planes flew over Spanish airspace. This drew an immediate complaint from the Spanish authorities. The pilots had made a navigational error and were reprimanded.

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister wrote an 'In My Opinion' column for the Gibraltar Chronicle. It can be read on the Gibraltar Chronicle's web site. He made the fundamental mistake of writing it in Spanish and then having translated by a Spaniard into English. The result that it would have made better sense to have left it in Spanish and the translator had no understanding of the nuances of the English language.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister said that any declaration of Principles by the British and Spanish Governments which makes political concessions to Spain without the consent of the Gibraltarians could be in breach of the Preamble to the 1969 Constitution.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Women's Association presented a petition at Buckingham Palace to Her Majesty the Queen calling for support in the defence of Gibraltar's interests. They also presented mounted glass Rocks to the Baroness Hooper, Andrew Mackinlay and Andrew Rosindell.

XXXXX

The Trades Union Council sent a delegation to the Mother Country to lobby Parliamentarians and Trade Union leaders; they met Peter Hain, Lindsay Hoyle, Simon Hughes, Bill Morris, Paul Noon and Nigel Degruchy.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government published the first issue of Gibraltar Heritage magazine.

XXXXX

The Spanish Ambassador invited Michael Ancram and Richard Spring for lunch and berated them for stating that the next Conservative Government would abrogate any agreement signed by the Spanish and British Governments.

XXXXX

APRIL 2002

The Chief Minister flew to London for talks at the Treasury about Financial Services issues.

XXXXX

Gisela Stuart MP said on BBC 2's Newsnight that if the proposals are rejected by the Gibraltarians then they will be scrapped.

XXXXX

The X11 annual conference of WASME (the world association for small and medium enterprises) was held on the Rock. It was hosted by the Gibraltar Federation of Small Businesses under the chairwomanship of Marie Lou Guerrero. The principal speaker at the dinner was Michael Shrimpton.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister addressed the membership of Chatham House on the question of Gibraltar's right to self-determination.

XXXXX

The Highlanders (amalgamation of the Queen's Own Highlanders and the Gordon Highlanders) mounted guard at the Convent.

XXXXX

Prince Ranier of Monaco and Crown Prince Albert flew by chartered plane into Gibraltar on a private visit.

XXXXX

Rafael Estrella, the PSOE front bench spokesman for European Affairs and Member of the Cortes for Granada addressed the Casino Calpe.

XXXXX

The Spanish Prime Minister made it absolutely clear that despite what Tony Blair and Jack Straw said to the contrary – the Spanish Government would never give up its claim for a total retrocession of sovereignty.

XXXXX

Joe Gaggero writes in the Bland Group annual report: ‘Total Bland Group turnover has continued to achieve growth and presently exceeds £180 million per annum. Bland Group net assets on 31st December 2001 include tangible fixed assets of £66.8 million and liquid resources of £37.8 million – a total of £104.6 million, which is an increase of 12% since 31st March.’

XXXXX

The Baroness Symons said ‘I understand that the Gibraltar House of Assembly Select Committee on Constitutional Reform has produced proposals. The Gibraltar Government has not yet passed these to HMG. We will consider carefully any proposals we receive.

XXXXX

The long awaited IMF report said that Gibraltar ranks as a well-developed offshore supervisor and at the forefront of the development of good practices.

XXXXX

Father Charles Bruzon was commissioned into the Army Chaplain’s Department (Volunteers.)

XXXXX

The Victualling Yard, Rosia Mole, and the Grand Magazine have been put up for tender by the Government.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister reassured Gibraltar’s pensioners by stating that the Gibraltar Government will not support any reduction or elimination of Community Care payments and that any liability for Spanish pensioners falls on the United Kingdom Government.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar frontier arrivals building has been refurbished.

XXXXX

Dennis Beiso gave a talk on the effects of the Spanish Civil War on Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government published a detailed response rebutting the Parliamentary Party Brief on Gibraltar and the Brussels Process.

XXXXX

The Prime Minister met the Labour Members of the Gibraltar Parliamentary Group in a vain attempt to persuade them to his way of thinking.

XXXXX

Pio Cabanillas, the Spanish Government spokesman, will never drop its claim to full sovereignty over Gibraltar.

XXXXX

MAY 2002

The Chief Minister flew to Geneva to address the United Nations Human Rights Committee then to the Mother Country to address the Oxford Union and finally the Royal Commonwealth Society.

XXXXX

The Royal Gurkha Rifles mounted guard at the Convent.

XXXXX

The Grand Master Mason of the Grand Order of Scotland, Archibold Orr Ewing visited the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar, Scottish Constitution.

XXXXX

Six cruise liners called at Gibraltar – a record.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister requested a meeting with the Prime Minister but it was refused.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister said that a modern Andorra type constitution could be the solution to the Gibraltar problem. This is a suggestion repeatedly put forward by Lord Thomas over the decades.

XXXXX

Dr John Fa, the director of the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey, is to head the first study on the growing bushmeat trade.

XXXXX

The Foreign Secretary flew to the Rock on an away day and the media images of his total humiliation were beamed round the world. People the world over were amazed that this was due because the Gibraltarians wished to retain their links to the Mother Country.

XXXXX

Norbet Sene was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Biomedical Science.

XXXXX

The Economist obituary wrote that The Queen Mother was as eternal as Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Michael Ancram flew to the Rock – his third visit this year – to address the Casino Calpe.

XXXXX

Viv Mifsud won the 2002 Open-Air painting competition organised by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.

XXXXX

Albert Poggio presented the Gibraltar Cup to 133 Workshop Company REME. This competition is open to all REME Territorial Army units within the south and east of England.

XXXXX

The Times revealed a major difference of opinion between the Secretary of State for Defence and the Foreign Secretary over the proposed joint sovereignty deal; Geoff Hoon opposes the Spanish Government having joint sovereignty over the military base. His view is that Straw and Hain are putting Great Britain's strategic military interests at risk.

XXXXX

The Deputy Chief Minister attended the UN Committee of 24's regional seminar on decolonisation. He urged the Committee to accept a recommendation that would instruct the British and Spanish Governments not to enter into an agreement or declaration of principles about Gibraltar's sovereignty or any other rights against the wishes of the Gibraltar Government and the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister flew to London for a working lunch with the Foreign Secretary to discuss how they might salvage their ideas on how to resolve the Gibraltar problem.

XXXXX

The Lions Club of Gibraltar celebrated its 25th anniversary.

XXXXX

A new gallery opened at the Gibraltar Museum; it houses the recent finds at Casemates, the Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned and Gorham's Cave.

XXXXX

Jerry Hall has a new boy friend – Gibraltarian Tim Attias, 35, son of James and Wendy Levy Attias who live near Godalming.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government pulled out the Gibraltar team from the 2002 Strait Games due to be held in San Roque after the hosts refused to drop its motto which was deemed to be politically charged. This reads 'San Roque where the real Gibraltarians reside).

XXXXX

Peterborough in The Daily Telegraph revealed that the loyal citizens of the Rock have recruited a fearsome legal ally – Peter Carter Ruck.

XXXXX

The Spanish Defence Minister attempted to negate Geoff Hoon's letter, leaked to The Times, by saying that the decisive factor in achieving a solution to the Gibraltar problem and specifically over the naval base will be the views of the two Prime Ministers – Blair and Aznar.

XXXXX

The P&O giant liner, Golden Princess, sailed into Gibraltar for the first time with 2,550 passengers on board served by 1,130 crew.

XXXXX

Alberto Aza, the former Spanish Ambassador to the Court of St. James and current director of the Spanish Ministry for Information Services, said that a total retrocession of sovereignty was the only logical conclusion to the present negotiations. This must also include defence and foreign affairs. The Spanish and British Governments are united that International Treaties prohibit the granting of genuine self-determination to the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister stressed that there was absolutely no possibility of the base being shared with the United Kingdom once a retrocession of sovereignty had been achieved.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government launched a two million pound advertising campaign in the British press under the headline 'Gibraltar Seeks Your Support. It is to be hoped that each FOGHS member emailed, faxed, telephoned or

wrote to the Gibraltar Government Office offering full support. If you have not then it is not to add your name to the one million plus who have do so.

XXXXX

Thirteen travel journalists accepted The Gibraltar Tourist Office's invitation to come and see the new look Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Bishop Charles Caruana led a Marian procession from St Bernard's Church to the Shrine of Our Lady of Europe to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the re-dedication of the Shrine.

XXXXX

Gibraltarian women will be listed for compulsory jury service following a Supreme Court ruling made on submissions from a young mother.

XXXXX

Maureen Lipman watched the Ceremony of the Keys and said how much she was enjoying her short stay on the Rock.

XXXXX

Tony Blair and his 'best buddy' Jose Maria Aznar held a meeting at Downing Street. All journalists attending were given a 'Keep Gibraltar British' car sticker and badge; Adam Boulton proudly displayed his sticker on Sky News.

The Prime Minister said: 'We discussed the issue of Gibraltar, where we agreed the talks would carry on, and indeed they have been carrying on, in a positive and sensible atmosphere. These talks will continue. Of course the British and Spanish Governments have their respective positions but there is a process - the Brussels process which began in 1984.'

The Spanish Prime Minister said: 'Quite honestly, I don't think that it is proper to talk or use the term crisis to describe the situation. We have had this on the table since 1713. We are also very aware of the difficulties we will face. But the talks are positive, very constructive.'

The Prime Minister's official spokesman acknowledged the talks had now entered difficult phase, with the Spanish Government refusing to cede its claims to sovereignty and insisting on joint control of the sensitive UK military bases in Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister addressed the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and then flew to Madrid to appear on two programmes on Spanish television. He said that there is no possible solution on sovereignty acceptable to both the Gibraltar and Spanish Governments.

XXXXX

The Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs approved the establishment in Brussels of a Gibraltar office with a staff of seven. Ramon de Miguel said: 'Gibraltar problems normally require great attention in normal circumstances and much more at the present position in the negotiations. I would point out that the British Government has a staff of 17 in Brussels working on Gibraltar matters.'

XXXXX

The Conservative Party Leader made an official visit to Gibraltar. Iain Duncan Smith, in answer to a question about the military base said: 'We attach the utmost importance to Gibraltar's role as a military base. It will remain of key strategic importance. Under a Conservative Government any European defence action would be taken' from within the structure of NATO not from an independent body, therefore our policy on NATO's use of Gibraltar remains as at present. Any use of the base would need to be with British consent.

The Spanish Government's restrictions on military aircraft and ships in transit to Gibraltar are very regrettable, all the more so considering that Spain is a NATO ally. The present Labour Government has failed to make any headway. This is not surprising because they seem to be disinterested in Gibraltar's problems. In Government we will do all we can to persuade the Spanish Government to halt this practice.'

He also said: 'the Conservative Party will fight for the Gibraltarians tooth and nail. The idea that a joint declaration could survive rejection at a referendum it is an affront to democracy. The Prime Minister should be ashamed of his disregard of the Gibraltarians' right to self-determination.'

XXXXX

The Minister for Tourism presented Lucinda Hawksley with the Ed Stacey Gibraltar Travel Award 2001.

XXXXX

The Spanish Prime Minister cancelled a meeting with the Conservative Party leader because Iain Duncan visited Gibraltar and refused to apologise for his hard line opposition to the Anglo-Spanish negotiations over Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government warned of the existence of a smear campaign allegedly linked to the dirty tricks unit of the FCO. It concerned calumnies about local financial statistics.

XXXXX

JUNE 2002

Gibraltar has been excluded from a number of outstanding aviation measures after the British Government accepted suspension clauses requested by the Spanish Government.

XXXXX

Colonel Arthur Ferrary provided his model soldier collection as part of the Queen's Golden Jubilee celebrations; there was also input from the Gibraltar Model Soldier Society and artist Shane Dalmedo.

XXXXX

Sir Robert Peliza has published a dissertation on Foreign Office Manipulation and the Gibraltar Problem. Any member wishing to read this informative publication should contact Bob on E-mail

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that the future of Gibraltar must not be allowed to depend on the Rock becoming a gigantic duty free shop and tax haven.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition flew separately to New York to take the 'Stop Done Deal' campaign to the United Nation's Committee of 24.

XXXXX

No nuclear powered men of war will visit Gibraltar until early 2003 said a MOD spokesman.

XXXXX

Lieutenant General J.G. Reith, Chief of Joint Operations, paid a working visit to the Rock.

XXXXX

Pio Cabanillas, Spanish Government spokesman, riposted that Blair, Straw and Hain and everyone else in the British Government know full well, since the first day of the present negotiations, that the Spanish Government will never renounce the claim for a total retrocession of sovereignty.

XXXXX

Christopher Morley has had his painting of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment undertaking the Queen's Guard duties at Buckingham Palace unveiled at the Garrison Library.

XXXXX

GCHQ foiled an attempt by Al Qaida suicide militia from targeting Gibraltar based warships as they sailed in the Strait.

XXXXX

Fernando Moran, former Spanish Foreign Secretary, addressed the membership of the Casino Calpe.

XXXXX

Nicholas Cruz was re-elected chairman of the Association of Trust and Company Managers.

XXXXX

Monsignor Tom Burns, the Principal Catholic Chaplain and Vicar General for the Royal Navy, is the new Bishop of the Forces.

The Bishop, after his Episcopal ordination, said: 'Had it not been for Bishop Charles Caruana and the Gibraltar diocese he would not have been ordained Bishop of the Forces. During the seventies and eighties, in order to enjoy some guaranteed sunshine, he used to serve as a supply priest in Gibraltar. Bishop Charles used to station him at St Bernard's Church and so father Tom ministered to the Service personnel. This he found so fulfilling that in 1994 he applied for a commission as a Royal Naval chaplain. Permission was granted, promotion swift and he was promoted Principal Royal Naval Chaplain in 1998.'

XXXXX

The International Affairs and Defence section of the House of Commons library has published an 80 page research paper on Gibraltar's constitutional future. Its author is Ms Vaughne Miller. The report can be accessed on URL: <http://www.parliament.uk>

XXXXX

Field Marshal Sir John Chapple was the principal guest at the 27th annual dinner of the Gun Troop, HAC.

XXXXX

A majority in the European Parliament gave its support by 399 to 111 for EU Nationals on the Rock to vote in the next European Parliamentary elections.

XXXXX

The Governor inaugurated the restored Marshman murals in the Convent. The work cost £27,000 and was funded by the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Gibraltar Government and the Foreign Office.

XXXXX

It is estimated that the new hospital will cost some £23 million.

XXXXX

In response to a Foreign Office dirty tricks unit inspired article in The Guardian, the Chief Minister said that there was more money laundering in the City of London in 25 minutes than in Gibraltar in an entire year.

XXXXX

The Mail on Sunday published an article by Peter Carter-Ruck under the headline 'My Final Fight: Justice For Gibraltar.'

XXXXX

A CD by the Royal Gibraltar Regimental band was launched at the Mount. It is sponsored by Price waterhouseCoopers.

XXXXX

The Foreign Secretary appeared to give evidence before the Foreign Affairs Committee.

XXXXX

Dr Joseph Garcia, the Liberal Party leader, attended in Seville the European Liberal Democrats summit.

XXXXX

The Spanish Government announced that £20,000 will be spent on a publicity campaign to convince Gibraltarians that the Anglo-Spanish negotiations are in their best interests.

XXXXX

The Accountant General , in a statement, denied the accuracy of Jack Straw's statement about the alleged non-availability of official statistics and the lack of transparency of the Rock's public finances. Dilip Tirathdas said that the full information of public finances is available and any suggestion that this is not the case is just not true.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government published the Abstract of Statistics for 2001.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister paid an official visit to Algeciras for talks with the Mayor. The two politicians agreed that Gibraltar and Algeciras would enjoy a good neighbourly relationship based on economic and cultural links, independently of the bilateral talks between the British and Spanish Governments over the future of Gibraltar.

XXXXX

JULY 2002

The Foreign Affairs Committee flew to the Rock to listen to the views of Gibraltarians about the current discussions over the Gibraltar's future.

XXXXX

Julio Iglesias gave a concert in La Linea in the football stadium with the majestic Rock starring in the background.

XXXXX

Johnny and Tita Stagnetto are taking off their aprons and after forty years have closed La Bayuca restaurant.

XXXXX

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said that Southern European Department has no idea how many expatriate Gibraltarians reside in the Mother Country.

If the Chief Minister accepts the Foreign Secretary's invitation to attend the next round of the Brussels Process talks in Madrid then Gibraltar officials will be able to fully engage with Southern European Department officials in the preparatory work for the talks. They can also take part in all meetings of co-ordinators. This is an expansion of the answer given by Jack Straw at the press conference following the last Brussels Process meeting in London. The Foreign Secretary had said that Gibraltar officials would only be able to join his team after all the governments had been consulted and given their approval. In other words the Spanish Government would be given a veto: apparently this has now been withdrawn.

XXXXX

Albert Poggio flew to Ballymena to spend a day with the Royal Irish Regiment and then a day with Ballymena Council.

XXXXX

Three senior members of the Spanish Embassy are to leave the Embassy by the end of the year. They are the Press Counsellor, the Counsellor for Political Affairs (Gibraltar desk) and the Press Counsellor.

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that the Spanish Government would never recognise the result of any referendum about a possible change of status for the Rock.

XXXXX

Lord Hacking's report for the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association on the trial of Chief Justice Derek Schofield's MOT case has concluded that there was no breach of human rights and that the trial was properly conducted.

XXXXX

Clive Betran is the new Principal of the College of Further Education.

XXXXX

Lord Patten asked in the House of Lords: 'When will the Prime Minister visit Gibraltar?' The Lord Privy Seal replied that the Prime Minister has no plans to do so.'

Number 10 also said that the Prime Minister had no plans to meet the Chief Minister.

XXXXX

Lord Janner of Braunstone, during a visit to Gibraltar, announced that the Commonwealth Jewish Council is to present an award to Gibraltar's Jewish community for its service not just to the Jewish community but also to Gibraltar as a whole.

XXXXX

Damaris Holland was crowned Miss Gibraltar 2002.

XXXXX

The Government of Gibraltar hosted a working visit by a delegation from the Government of Montserrat.

XXXXX

The Polish Government cancelled the visit of a Minister and Ambassador to attend the events to commemorate on 4 July 2003 the 60th anniversary of the death of General Sikorski. This follows interference from the Spanish Government when it issued a written demarch to the Polish Ambassador in Madrid.

XXXXX

The Conservative Government invited the Chief Minister to speak at this year's conference.

XXXXX

The Spanish Prime Minister had a surprise reshuffle and Ana de Palacios succeeded Josep Pique as Foreign Minister. Ana should not be confused with her sister the EU Transport Commissioner Loyola. The sisters are the most powerful force in Spanish politics.

XXXXX

Andrew Mackinlay asked Tony Blair for what reason he had declined to meet the Chief Minister during the last three months. The Prime Minister replied: 'My diary commitments meant that a meeting has not been possible. I have encouraged the Chief Minister to continue his dialogue with Jack Straw.'

XXXXX

On Thursday 11 July Jack Straw suddenly announced that he would be making a statement on the House the next day.

Andrew Mackinlay said: 'I think that this is another example of Foreign Office dirty tricks as the majority of Members will be in their constituencies and so not be present in the House to question the Foreign Secretary about the content of his statement. Jack could have made the statement at the beginning of next week when Members would have been back in London.'

XXXXX

The main points in the Straw statement were;

1. Britain and Spain should share sovereignty over Gibraltar, including the disputed territory of the Isthmus.
2. Gibraltar should have more internal self-government.
3. Gibraltar should retain its British traditions, customs and way of life.
4. Gibraltarians should retain the right to British nationality and gain in addition the right to Spanish nationality as well.
5. Gibraltar should retain its institutions: its Government, House of Assembly, courts and police service.
6. Gibraltar could, if it chose, participate fully in the EU Single Market and other EU arrangements.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government, opposition parties and pressure groups reacted furiously to this policy statement. For full details members should read the websites of the Gibraltar Chronicle, Panorama, Iberian News.

XXXXX

Michael Ancram and Bill Morris (TGWU) pledged full support to the Gibraltar Government.

XXXXX

The Court of Appeal allowed the appeal made by the Attorney General and set aside the orders made by the Chief Justice in relation to all male juries. The practical effect of this ruling is that women will not now be listed for compulsory jury duty, unless the ruling is overturned by the Privy Council.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister said that Jack Straw's declaration is tantamount to a denial of our right to self-determination. It considerably strengthens the Spanish Government's hand internationally by legitimising her claim and is a violation of our political rights and wishes as a people.

XXXXX

Tony Blair accepted an invitation to act as the chief witness at the wedding of the Spanish Prime Minister's daughter.

XXXXX

The results of an ITV Teletext Poll in answer to the question –Do you back Jack Straw's plan for Britain to share sovereignty of Gibraltar with Spain?

Yes 19% No 81%.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister gave a talk on the Gibraltar Problem in the San Roque Cursos de Verano.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister was interviewed by Adam Boulton on Sky Television. He was followed by Iain Duncan Smith who promised full support to the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

UK Independent Party conference at Scarborough was updated on the Gibraltar Problem by the editor.

XXXXX

Taylor Woodrow has sold more than £3million of advance sales on 'The Cliftons' which is being built on the site of the Naval Hospital.

XXXXX

An unknown person visited King's Chapel and defaced the Visitors' Book by writing the phrase 'Gibraltar Espanol, Puto Ingleses' (sic).

XXXXX

Admiral Sir Derek Reffell wrote a letter to The Daily Telegraph in which he stated that the Jack Straw has perpetuated one of the greatest acts of treachery by British Foreign Secretary in the past century.

XXXXX

Father Phelim Rowland was appointed as the Principal Catholic Chaplain of the British Army.

XXXXX

Desmond de Silva QC has been asked by the United Nations to help spearhead the War Crimes Tribunal being set up in Sierra Leone. Desmond has been appointed deputy chief prosecutor by the UN Security Council for the new special court being established jointly with the Sierra Leone Government.

XXXXX

The British Ambassador in Madrid suggested that the British Government after all would be prepared to share the military with the Spanish Government.

XXXXX

Patrick Jenkin, Shadow Defence Secretary, made an official visit to the Rock.

XXXXX

The new Spanish Foreign Minister shot herself in the foot when she said that the situation of Ceuta and Melilla cannot be compared to Gibraltar because the two North African enclaves are part of the European Territory while this is not so in Gibraltar's case. This is because Gibraltar is a Crown Colony and as such cannot be a part of the European Union.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister announced that there would be a Referendum to deprive the joint sovereignty done deal of any legitimacy.

XXXXX

Jack Straw dismissed the Gibraltar Government's plans to hold a referendum as eccentric and warning that it would make no difference to the reality of the British Government's relations with the Spanish Government. 'I think that the referendum is a rather eccentric, rather expensive idea to tell us what we know already.'

XXXXX

The Spanish Foreign Minister said that the referendum would breach international law.

XXXXX

The Minister for Sport met the Prime Minister at the opening of the Commonwealth games in Manchester. Tony Blair was non-committal in his reply but indicated that he would like to meet the Chief Minister.

XXXXX

King Mohamed VI declared that the Moroccan Government has a legitimate claim to Ceuta and Melilla and the other islands appropriated by the Spanish Government.

XXXXX

AUGUST 2002

The Chief Minister drove to Los Barrios and signed agreements relating to Mercomed joint venture companies. Peter Caruana said that he was open to dialogue with other Campo de Gibraltar mayors but they must show the same commitment as Los Barrios .

XXXXX

Andrew Rosindell M.P. wrote an open letter to the people of Gibraltar expressing his support for devolved integration into the Mother Country.

XXXXX

The Economist, in an editorial, wrote that the British and Spanish Governments should stop wanting to force a change of status on the Rock. The Gibraltar 'problem' is a Spanish invention and that the Spanish Government has unleashed patriotic fervour over a piece of land lost three centuries ago for which it has no case in law and no practical need.

Adela Gooch is the muse who inspired this editorial. She addressed the seminar a couple of years ago.

XXXXX

Nicholas Mor is included in the 2002 edition of The Who's Who of Britain's Young Entrepreneurs.

XXXXX

The Leader of the Opposition, in reply to an article written by Jack Straw in The Daily Express, said that the British Government is not prepared to stand up to Madrid in defence of the legitimate rights and aspirations of the Gibraltarians. This has nothing to do with Gibraltar's constitutional position.

XXXXX

Solomon Seruya called for responsible leadership in Gibraltar that must strive to improve relations with the United Kingdom Government in order to avoid isolation and fighting a battle on two fronts.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government has put out to tender the Eastside Project which is likely to be worth some £300 million – this will be reclaimed land between Catalan Bay and Eastern Beach.

XXXXX

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the British Government should not negotiate the sovereignty of either Gibraltar or the Falkland Islands with the third party claimant against the wishes of the people of the territory.

XXXXX

The Foreign Secretary said in the House of Commons 'So this dispute affects above all 30,000 Gibraltarians. But it also affects 60 million Britons.'

Complaints as to the accuracy of this sentence were raised with the Southern European Department. After time to cogitate, sources close to King Charles Street suggested that the official responsible for drafting the statement had been confused between the difference between Gibraltarians resident on the Rock, expatriate Gibraltarians and the total number of people resident on the Rock; this figure was rounded up from the official census figure of 27,170 (1997).

Had the official bothered to look up the 2001 Abstract of Statistics she would have found the following figures; Gibraltarian 22,875, Other British 3,370, Non-British-British 1,986 totalling 28,231.

The Southern European department has no plans to alter this figure in the copies of the Foreign Secretary's statement sent to all the thousands who write to the Foreign Office complaining about the handling of the Gibraltar problem.

The official in question has apologised and promised to be accurate in the future.

XXXXX

Several dogs owned by Pepe and Josie Requena have won prizes in the World Dog Show held in Amsterdam.

XXXXX

Andres Gomez began an online petition mirroring the declaration made by the Chief Minister at the 18th March rally and soon collected 1,400 signatures. Andre contacted his local MP, Mark Prisk who arranged for him to present it to Michael Ancram witnessed by Albert Poggio.

XXXXX

Terry Waite spent a few days on the Rock and subsequently wrote an article about this experience.

XXXXX

Alfonso Dastis has been appointed the senior diplomat dealing with Gibraltar at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He succeeds Carlos Bastarreche who took over from Ricardo Diez Hochleitner who succeeded Jose Rodriguez Spiteri.

XXXXX

Jimmy Elsby, TGWU Assistant General Secretary, declared that the Gibraltar Government should be given equal status in the talks on the future sovereignty of the Rock. The British Government must give Gibraltarians the referendum they promised and must stop treating the Gibraltarians with such disrespect.

XXXXX

The Spanish Government has installed a sophisticated electronic surveillance system consisting of a network of radar equipment and cameras to monitor maritime movements across the Strait of Gibraltar right up to the Moroccan coast.

XXXXX

Rosemary Peach is the new Chairwoman of the Gibraltar Women's Association. Geraldine Pitaluga-Lancaster remains Vice Chairwoman.

XXXXX

Andrew Mackinlay was a guest on the television programme 'Have I got News for You'. He was in sparkling form.

XXXXX

Winston Churchill said that he is strongly behind the Gibraltarians in their determination to remain British.

XXXXX

The Abbot of Downside, the Rt Rev Dom Richard Yeo flew to Gibraltar to see Dom Francis Little, monk of Downside Abbey, who is attached to the diocese of Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Lord Pendrey made an official visit to Gibraltar to feel the temperature and gauge the Gibraltarians' feelings. Upon his return to the Mother Country he declined to be interviewed.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister attended the Lib-Dem Conference in Brighton, the Labour Party Conference in Blackpool and the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' meeting in London.

XXXXX

SEPTEMBER 2002

Calpe 2002 was held at the John Mackintosh Hall and centred on the relationship between Gibraltar and Malta.

XXXXX

BBC Television broadcast a programme about the apes. It was narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

XXXXX

Lord Bethell wrote to Tony Blair calling on him to listen to the Gibraltarians and to act to defend Gibraltar's rights.

XXXXX

Andrew Rosindell MP has launched the pressure group – Conservative Friends of Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The South London Philharmonic Orchestra performed a concert at St. Michael's Cave.

XXXXX

The following Parliamentarians were the guests of the Gibraltar Government at this year's National Day celebrations: Lord Bethell, Colin Breed, David Causby, Jonathan Evans, Jimmy Hood, Lindsay Hoyle, Tim Loughton, Andrew Rosindell, Dr Bob Spink, Dennis Turner, Simon Hughes and Brian White. This year's theme was Self-Determination – YES Joint Sovereignty - NO

XXXXX

Commonwealth Parliaments endorsed the right of Gibraltarians to self determination. This was decided at the first plenary of the 22nd Commonwealth Small Countries Conference. The Commonwealth Parliaments also asked the British Government to recognise the results of the Gibraltar Referendum to be held on November 7.

XXXXX

The Casemates Clock was presented to the people of Gibraltar by Lyonnaise Des Eaux.

XXXXX

The Governor, following hostile paragraphs in the Peterborough column in The Daily Telegraph which included that David Durie's contract would not be extended after the three year period, confirmed that he would be leaving next April and would also be leaving the Civil service.

XXXXX

Ana Palacio said that reaching an agreement with the British Government will not compensate for breaching our red lines, the most important of which is that the claim for a total retrocession of sovereignty will never be dropped.

XXXXX

The District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar celebrated its 250th anniversary – the oldest overseas district within the world wide organisation of the United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons.

XXXXX

Dom Francis Little celebrated 60 years as a Benedictine monk.

XXXXX

The UK Liberal Democrat Conference backed the right of the Gibraltarians to self-determination. (For full details see Simon Hughes interview on Gibraltar Chronicle website).

XXXXX

A bi-lateral meeting (not under the Brussels Agreement) was held between the Foreign Ministers of the United Kingdom and Spain. Nothing came out of the meeting except a broad commitment to continue talks to seek a solution to the Gibraltar problem.

XXXXX

Professor Martin Blinkhorn, Lancaster University History Department, has been awarded a research grant by the United Kingdom's Arts and Humanities Research Board, to explore the history of Gibraltar. The project will run for three years and cost £225,000.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government released a coin to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, separately, flew to New York to address the United Nations Fourth Committee.

XXXXX

The new Bishop of Gibraltar in Europe criticised the British Government's handling of the Gibraltar problem. Gibraltar's future must rest in the hands of the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

The Government of Gibraltar announced that the Gibraltar/Morocco Programme will attract 425,000 euros of EU funds to promote joint actions in the fields of training, improving communications, tourism and heritage and the establishment of cross border networks with the aim of creating greater economic co-operation between Gibraltar and Morocco.

XXXXX

James Levy, David Dumas and Freddie Vasquez were appointed Queen's Counsel for Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Michael Ancram made another visit to Gibraltar to speak at the GFSB autumn fund raiser dinner and said that he found it quite incredible that the British Government gave said that they would not pay any attention to the result. 'It will be an enormously important test and clear indication of the views of the people of Gibraltar on the question of joint-sovereignty, and it would be quite unbelievable to ignore it.'

At the auction his written speech raised £375 whilst a House of Commons bottle of whisky signed by Iain Duncan Smith fetched £375.

XXXXX

The Grenadier Guards mounted guard at the Convent. The Guards were last on the Rock in 1899.

XXXXX

Hector and Johanna Cortes are planning to move to the Mother Country in order to further their musical careers.

XXXXX

The Question to be asked at the Referendum is : On the 12th July 2002 the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, in a formal statement in the House of Commons, said that after twelve months of negotiation the British Government and the Spanish Government are in broad agreement on many of the principles that should underpin a lasting settlement of Spain's sovereignty claim, which included the principle that Britain and Spain should share sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Do you approve of the principle that Britain and Spain should share sovereignty over Gibraltar?

Yes/No.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister addressed the Conservative Party Conference and spoke at a fringe meeting.

XXXXX

The Mayor of Barrios said 'We can live without each other but much better together'.

XXXXX

Gibraltar was excluded from the accession of the European Community to Eurocontrol.

XXXXX

Andalucia's Parliament approved a motion calling for good neighbourly relations with Gibraltar.

XXXXX

NOVEMBER 2002

Isola and Isola celebrated 110 years of legal practice on the Rock.

XXXXX

Iain Duncan Smith in his keynote speech at Conference pledged to stand by the Gibraltarians.

XXXXX

Dr Joe Garcia during an interview with the International Liberal Magazine accused the British and Spanish Governments of seeking to apply an 18th century solution to a 21st century problem. In the 21st century it is the wishes of the people that must be paramount.

XXXXX

The Heritage Minister addressed the Gibraltar Heritage Trust's AGM. He said that the Spanish Government was the most worrying factor which augurs against Gibraltar's bid for World Heritage status. The Spanish Ambassador to UNESCO had registered a complaint about Gibraltar's inclusion on the British list. He went on to say: 'I fear that this whole issue is being clouded not only by the Spanish Government's objection, and the pre-disposition towards Spanish nervousness that some FCO mandarin has, but also the political stance Gibraltar is taking in relation to Anglo-Spanish negotiations'.

XXXXX

Joe Desoisa, Chairman of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust warned that the city's unique character is being steadily and irreparably eroded.

XXXXX

The Royal Irish Regiment mounted guard at the Convent.

XXXXX

Andrew Hoare, William Jardim, Maruchi Risso, Charles Seruya and Joshina Viroomal have been appointed Justices of the Peace for Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The wags in the Southern European Department sent this e-mail amongst themselves; 'Following Saddam Hussein's well fought victory in Tuesday's Iraqi referendum on whether he should rule for another seven years now Caruana has something to aim for on November 7'.

XXXXX

Bishop Caruana led a pilgrimage to Rome and made his 'Ad Limina' visit to His Holiness Pope John Paul II. Members of the FOGHS took part in the pilgrimage. As the Spanish Government prevented the Pope on the two occasion he visited Spain from going on to Gibraltar to crown the statue of Our Lady of Europe the Bishop decided that the statue would be taken to Rome to be crowned by the Pope. And so the highlight of the pilgrimage was the sensational moment when he crowned the statue and placed a rosary around Our Lady's hands.

XXXXX

Many FOGHS members were guests of the Chief Minister at the reception at the Drapers' Hall where the theme of his address was 'It's time for the United Kingdom to reciprocate Gibraltar's loyalty.' This was followed by beating of Retreat by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment and the Royal Irish regiment.

XXXXX

Mary Margarita Cruz is probably the first Gibraltarian to be an Ambassador's wife. In 1945 she married Norman Cox who had served in Gibraltar during the war as a member of MI5/MI6. Fate brought them together in a chance meeting in England, where Mary had been evacuated. After further years in the Secret Service, Norman passed the Foreign Office entrance examination and became a poacher turned gamekeeper. He went on to have a distinguished career in the Diplomatic Service ending up as Ambassador to Ecuador and then Mexico.

XXXXX

In a surprising move Sir Emyr Jones-Parry, the architect of the proposed 'Agreement of Principles', has handed over responsibility for the end game of the present round of Brussels Process talks to James Bevan. The Ambassador to NATO now has no responsibility for resolving the Gibraltar problem.

XXXXX

The Polish Ambassador told the Gibraltar Chronicle that the Polish Government had decided to attend the events next year to mark the 60th anniversary of the death of General Sikorski. It will be recalled that the Spanish Government had registered a formal protest when the Ambassador, accompanied by John MacGregor, visited Gibraltar last year on a fact finding mission to make the preliminary arrangements. This resulted in considerable pressure on the Polish Government to cancel any official participation in the events in Gibraltar. A decision was taken to cancel all official participation and the organisation of the ceremonies was handed to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society.

Due to intensive lobbying by Andrew Mackinlay, the Polish Government has reversed its decision. There will be now two ceremonies – one in front of the General's statue in Portland Place, the other on the Rock where the tragedy took place. The FOGHS has handed back the organisation of the events to the Polish Embassy and all arrangements cancelled.

The Polish Ambassador, during his visit to Gibraltar, said: "We feel it would be better if there is one main commemoration spot and this should be Gibraltar. The tragic accident happened off Gibraltar and on the sixtieth anniversary a special monument should be erected, or at the very least there should be something more accessible to tourists, especially Polish visitors. Perhaps there could also be a plaque in Polish."

The Chief Minister responded by offering every facility in respect of the proposed monument. It is understood that negotiations have begun to find site for this monument.

The Spanish Government is not best pleased by this volte face. It is thought that the majority of Poles making the pilgrimage will come from Spain.

XXXXX

Gerald Kaufman MP was appointed Chairman of the November 7th Referendum team of observers.

.XXXXX

Christopher Gill, the former Conservative MP and present chairman of the Freedom Association, flew to Gibraltar to take a well earned holiday.

XXXXX

The Baroness Hooper, after two extra years as President of Canning House, has handed over command to Lord Garel-Jones. Gibraltar can apply for membership as soon as it sheds its colonial status. Gibraltarians can join as individual members.

XXXXX

Norman Cox, former British Ambassador to Ecuador and Mexico, has donated to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society a set of 11 prints from the originals by H.A. West, 12th Infy and published in March 1828. The prints have been given to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and have been loaned to 6 Convent Place.

XXXXX

The Commonwealth Jewish Council dinner to honour Gibraltar's Jewish Community was held at the Park Lane Hotel. Speeches were made by Lord Janner, Baroness Thatcher, Peter Caruana and Jaime Levy.

Lord Janner said: 'The Council believed that the Gibraltar Jewish Community was a marvellously well organised and fine community living in great friendship with its neighbours of all religions which has and continues to contribute to Gibraltar, and we are very proud of it.'

XXXXX

Dr Denis MacShane succeeded Peter Hain as Minister for Europe following Peter's promotion to the Cabinet.

XXXXX

Peter Hain delivered his last lecture as Minister for Europe at a meeting of the European Forum at the Locarno Rooms. FOGHS members Keith Brian and Richard Wells attended with the former asking a question about Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Vice-Admiral Scott Fry, Commander of the United States 6th Fleet, visited the Rock to meet the senior British Forces officers.

XXXXX

The Officers of the Gibraltar All-Party Parliamentary Group for this session of Parliament are Chairman: Lindsay Hoyle (Labour), Vice Chair: David Chidgey (Lib-Dem), Tim Loughton (Conservative), Hon Secretary: Eleanor Laing (Conservative), Hon Treasurer: Colin Breed (Lib-Dem).

XXXXX

The Chief Minister accepted an Invitation from the leader of the Opposition to appear at a GSLP rally at Casemates.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government announced the completion of works to convert the former Sergeants' Mess at Lathbury Barracks into a retreat and public events centre.

XXXXX

Margaret Giraldi, after 20 years, has resigned as a committee member of the Gibraltar Red Cross Society.

XXXXX

The result of the Referendum is: 17,900 NO 187 YES 98.97% of voters chose to reject the principle of joint sovereignty. 89 votes were spoilt of which 72 were blank. The postal vote turnout was 78.53%.

Readers are advised to read the information services' websites for full details of this unique event in Gibraltar's history. Alternatively copies of the Gibraltar Chronicle of the 7-8-9 can be obtained from the Back Numbers department. Justice cannot be done in the space available in this newsletter.

XXXXX

Dr Denis MacShane, the new Minister for Europe, said: 'As far as I'm concerned, given the role the people of Gibraltar played in defending freedom and defeating fascism. I as Minister of Europe can try and give this guarantee: that Gibraltar will be safe in my hands.'

XXXXX

The Chief Minister said: 'We see the result very much as an opportunity for a new approach and a chance to draw a line under the last 12 months. We would be very happy for that to be so.'

XXXXX

As soon as the polls had closed the Foreign Affairs issued its latest report which was a scathing attack on Tony Blair's Gibraltar policy.

This can be read on the FAC website,

XXXXX

Andrew Mackinlay said: 'I hope that the mandarins and mini mandarins in Whitehall will respond to the double impact of the Gibraltar Referendum and the FAC report. They have to recognise that they are embarked on a foolish process. I expect they will try with a minimum loss of dignity to try and bury the issue. Peter Hain's departure augured well for Anglo-Gibraltarian relations. There might be some continued whimpering in London and there could be some bruising for relations with Spain. The result has buried this issue to a great extent.'

XXXXX

The Electoral Reform Society gave the Referendum a clean bill of health.

XXXXX

Gerald Kaufman said that the British Government will have to take into account the result of the Gibraltar Referendum. 'HMG cannot ignore a 88% vote and a 99% opposition. The poll was far more than double the poll in last week's Congressional Elections in the United States, and it was 30% more than in the poll in last year's British General Election.

XXXXX

Leeds and Holbreck Building has established a presence in Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Spanish Government shot themselves in their collective feet when they accused Gibraltar for being responsible for the sinking of Prestige.

The British Ambassador was forced to issue a statement saying that the suggestion off Galicia is linked to Gibraltar's alleged failure to comply with community legislation is wrong.

Even Sir Nigel Sheinwald, not normally noted for his support of the Gibraltarians, issued a forceful letter which said that the Prestige incident had absolutely nothing to do with Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Armed Forces Minister flew to Gibraltar on a fact finding mission. Adam Ingram's visit was also to show solidarity with the Defence Secretary 's determination not to agree to joint control of the base. Before leaving he confirmed that Gibraltar was an important military base for the United Kingdom and said that MOD facilities would be upgraded and that there would be a considerable increase in investment over the coming years.

XXXXX

The Prime Minister and the Transport Secretary totally rejected any suggestion by the Spanish Government and the Spanish European Commissioner that the Prestige had been caused by any failure by the Gibraltar authorities. The Prestige had only called once at Gibraltar port to refuel in the last five years.

XXXXX

Andrew Rosindell MP tables an early day motion calling for an end to sovereignty negotiations with the Spanish Government.

XXXXX

The British Ambassador was again forced to raise his head above the parapet and publicly lament that it has become fashionable in Spain to unfairly tarnish Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Financial Action Task Force has endorsed the anti-money laundering regime in place on the Rock.

XXXXX

Bishop David Hamid has been installed as Suffragan Bishop of Gibraltar in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

XXXXX

The Bank Credit Agricole Indosuez announced that it is to leave Gibraltar.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government welcomed the fact that the territory of Gibraltar will be included in the territorial definition of the planned EU Constituency so that both the territory and the people of Gibraltar will be enfranchised.

XXXXX

The Belgium film 'Au-dela de Gibraltar' was entered for the European Film Festival.

XXXXX

Hispano Comerzbank said that it would be closing its Gibraltar operation by the end of the year.

XXXXX

Bishop Charles Caruana blessed the memorial stone at the entrance to the cemetery for unborn and still born children. It has been erected by HOPE, the support group for those parents who have experienced miscarriages, including also those babies who were still born.

XXXXX

Lord Tebbit in the course of delivering this year's Ian Gow Memorial lecture said; 'Blair's constitutional reforms, destabilising a long-established constitutional settlement and breaking up the United Kingdom, his social reforms undermining the family, his criminal and civil law reforms overturning 1,000 years of British jurisprudence in favour of the Napoleonic code, his attempted obliteration of the culture and history of this Kingdom, the betrayal of those who would be British whether in Gibraltar or Ulster, his contemptuous disregard of our kith and kin in Zimbabwe, his resolution to cede our very currently to foreign interests are all part of one agenda. The destruction of this Kingdom and its absorption within a foreign jurisdiction, over the heads or behind the backs of its people and contrary to the oaths he swore on taking office'.

XXXXX

Gibraltar is included in the Canadian Quilt of Belonging which will hang in Canada's Museum of Civilisation in Ottawa.

XXXXX

Pablo Fernandez Trujillo has finished restoring the stained glass windows in what was once the Christian Brothers private chapel and is now the Chapel of the Sacred Heart School. This was financed by the FGOHGS and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust with input from the Ministers of Heritage and Education.

XXXXX

DECEMBER 2002

The Chief Minister held his first meeting with Dr Denis MacShane. The FCO said that it was a getting to know you meeting, it was held in a good atmosphere and a variety of issues were discussed.

XXXXX

Los dos amigos met in the margins of the Prague NATO conference and Jose Maria Aznar said that he expected talks to continue over Gibraltar despite the Referendum result.

XXXXX

Dr Denis MacShane was accused in the media of being drunk when replying to the adjournment debate on Gibraltar. As to be expected the Minister of Europe denied that this was the case.

XXXXX

John Goncalves, GABBA President and FIBA Commissioner, has been appointed by the Commonwealth Basketball Federation to head the organisation of the European Zone qualifying competition for the 2006 Commonwealth Games to be held in Melbourne, Australia.

XXXXX

Peter Torrey, Ambassador to Spain, has been knighted and appointed Ambassador to the federal Republic of Germany.

XXXXX

John Macgregor, the director of Wider Europe and the Foreign Office diplomat responsible for Gibraltar until this responsibility was given to James Bevan, has been appointed Ambassador to the Republic of Austria. He has already been Ambassador to Poland.

XXXXX

GB Airways carried more than one million passengers between the period April and October.

XXXXX

The Chief Minister was a finalist in the competition for European Politician of the Year organised by 'The European Voice'.

XXXXX

Kathy Newton from Michigan in the United States is searching for news of her ancestors. Richard Catton and his son John were either on board HMS Victory or on the Rock when Admiral Nelson's body was brought into Rosia Bay on board HMS Victory. The family belief is that one of the Cattons was responsible for pickling Nelson's body in Spanish brandy. Can any reader provide any information about this nugget of information? Kathy hopes to be in Gibraltar for the events marking the 200th anniversary of the battle of Trafalgar.

XXXXX

Uwe Quiltzsch is a member of staff at the Culture Foundation of Dessau-Woerlitz. This foundation maintains and manages the garden Realm Dessau-Woerlitz which is situated 80 kilometres to the south west of Berlin. It was laid out by Prince Leopold 111 and today is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In the Dessau Court diary he came across an entry listing a couple of meetings between the Prince an officer stationed in Gibraltar. The entries are; 28th February 1775 – The Prince is going to Worlitz with Mr Dellhauss (or Dallhouse/Delhaub/Dallas) who is an English officer serving in the Gibraltar fortress – 3 March 1775 The Prince is going to Woerlitz to meet Mr von Edrmannsdorff and Mr Dellhaus in Dellnau (a small village near Dellhaus.) Can any member throw any light on the mysterious Mr Dellhauss?

XXXXX

Mark Seddon, the extreme left wing member of the Labour Party who was an Observer at the recent referendum, told the Gibraltar Chronicle that however miffed Tony Blair is by the result, he would never stoop so low as to insert a sentence in the Labour Party manifesto which if the Labour Party was re-elected would ultimately enable him to invoke the Parliament Act and force through a Bill through both Houses of Parliament overturning the Preamble to the 1969 Constitution. In his opinion if Blair was tempted to follow this path then he would probably lose the election.

XXXXX

The Spanish Government does not confine its enclaves in North Africa to Ceuta, Melilla and Parsey island. Spanish sovereignty is also claimed on these outcrops; Zaffarinas, Penon de Alhucemas, Penon de Velez, Isla de Alborin, This information has been researched and provided by John Murphy. It was sent to Lindsay Hoyle who replied thus; 'You raise some interesting points in relation to Spain's territories in Morocco and it further adds to Spain's hypocrisy when discussing Gibraltar. One point I continually raise with Ministers is that rather than discussing joint sovereignty why are we not looking at the models that Spain uses for their overseas territories which they believe work well. How could Spain oppose this?'

I am sure that the Spanish would oppose any proposals which do not move towards joint sovereignty. I firmly believe that the people of Gibraltar should determine their own future and given the overwhelming support to remain British I will continue to press Government Ministers not to sign up to any agreement or framework on joint sovereignty.'

XXXXX

Gerald Kaufman has been awarded the Spectator award for being the political survivor of the year.

XXXXX

Lord Merrivale flew to Gibraltar recently to scatter in the harbour, the ashes of his late wife. This was Betty's wish and Jack Merrivale, despite his age and frailty, was determined to carry out this harrowing task in person.

XXXXX

Robert Palmer has published his last issue of 'Mediterranean Life' as in future the editorial will be commissioned in house by the GB Airways public relations team. The magazine will be reviewed at a later date but suffice to say that it is one of Robert's greatest issues.

There are two articles dedicated to Gibraltar. Alan Clark writes about the Rock Hotel which is about to celebrate its 70th birthday and the editor of this august organ profiles Marielou Guerrero and Peter Isola Junior .

XXXXX

Parliamentary Brief published a 24 page special report on Gibraltar This will concentrate on the Referendum and Gibraltar's political future. It can be read on the publication's web site.

XXXXX

A permanent altar has been erected at the North Front cemetery.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Re-enactment Society, dressed in period costume, perform the Ceremony of the Keys every Saturday at noon.

XXXXX

The nearest Tony Blair listening to a Gibraltarian was when he shook hands with Rabbi Dr Abraham Levy at the opening of the new Jewish Free School in Middlesex It was a handshake the Prime Minister was unable to avoid.

XXXXX

Stephen Wright,56, has been appointed Ambassador to the Kingdom of Spain. Note that he is a mere Mister.

XXXXX

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to urge the British and Spanish Governments to continue to negotiate to resolve the Gibraltar Problem.

XXXXX

Gibraltar was excluded from a EU regulation on statistical information aimed at improving EU air safety.

XXXXX

Joe Gaggero has handed over his role as Chairman of GB Airways in favour of his son, James, from 1 January 2003. Joe has been appointed President and will remain a non-executive director of the company, chairing the Remuneration and Audit committees.

XXXXX

Sir Francis Richards,57, is the new Governor and Commander in Chief. Note that he is a Knight.

XXXXX

Mario Hook has succeeded Henry Pinna as Ombudsman.

XXXXX

Maurice Xiberras joined the executive committee of the Gibraltar Labour party.

XXXXX

The Minister for Europe told Dr Joseph Garcia that talks with the Spanish Government are the only way forward.

XXXXX

Bathsheba Peralta, Melissa Mackintosh and Denis Valerga have combined their talents to produce a CD called 'Luna de Verano'. It is an album of relaxed music, greatly influenced by the Calpean sound of Albert Hammond. Bayhsheba wrote the lyrics, the music composed by Denis and Melissa providing the vocals. Highly recommended. The proceeds of the CD are going to a Gibraltar charity for young children. Any member wishing a copy should send a cheque for £10, made payable to Bathsheba Peralta, to Michael Brufal, 24 Guernsey Drive, Ancells Farm, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 2TG.

XXXXX

The Independent British Committee of Observers, under the chairmanship of Gerald Kaufman MP, gave the Referendum it overwhelming official endorsement.

XXXXX

The Spanish Minister for Sport has dropped bureaucratic restrictions for Gibraltarian youth players, aged 7-18, who aspire to play for football teams in the Federacion Andalus de Futball.

XXXXX

Rafael Estrella, the PSOE Parliamentary Spokesman on European Affairs, said that only Tony Blair can break the current impasse in talks over Gibraltar caused by the November 7 Referendum.

XXXXX

Sir Emyr Jones Parry will succeed Sir Jeremy Greenstock as Ambassador to the United Nations. Sir Emyr is the diplomat who dusted down the 1968 Falkland Islands Memorandum of Understanding and sold the idea to Tony Blair as the way to resolve the Gibraltar problem. Sir Jeremy Greenstock used to head the Southern European Department.

XXXXX

The Governor, in his Christmas Message, said that he does not detect great enthusiasm in London or Madrid to pursue the talks on Gibraltar with the same urgency or intensity as was the case earlier in the year. 'It may well be that a period of reflection on all sides would be beneficial'.

XXXXX

Tony Blair told the Falkland Islanders; 'I know that your confidence in dealing with your neighbours will be enhanced in the secure knowledge of the guarantees I have given of my Government's commitment to your self determination and sovereignty.'

XXXXX

Dr John Cortes has been re-elected to the board of Directors of the Parque Natural de Los Alcornocles.

XXXXX

Tita Stagnetto, Dr John Cortes, and Professor Clive Finlayson were awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list.

XXXXX

David Durie was knighted in the New Year's Honours List – KCMG (Kindly call Me God).

XXXXX

JANUARY 2003

All the New Year messages from the Chief Minister and other political leaders are all available on their respective websites.

XXXXX

Richard Spring and Keith Simpson, Conservative front bench spokesmen for Europe and Defence respectively, made an official fact finding visit.

XXXXX

Those with good vision will have noticed that in the family portrait that serves as this year's Christmas card for the Blairs, baby Leo is holding a Rock Ape. The No 10 Press officer whilst confirming that it is a species of monkey would not confirm that it was a Rock ape bought in Gibraltar. The spokesperson would not reveal its provenance; it could be a gift from either a prominent Spanish or Gibraltarian politician. But at least Gibraltar has reached the heart of Blairdom. It so happens that this Dateliner bought similar Rock Apes for his own grandchildren. He did not send one to Downing Street.

XXXXX

After many years without any pupils from Gibraltar, Downside School now has three boys from the Rock. They are the sons of David Flint, the mini mandarin at the Convent responsible for EU affairs. These representatives from Gibraltar will shortly be joined by other boys from Gibraltar. Downside has enjoyed one its most successful rugby football fifteens ever; they played thirteen matches and won them all. Purists will argue that there were better unbeaten teams by virtue that in yesteryear the fixture list was considerably stronger. However the main fixture has always been Sherborne and this year Downside comfortably won the game.

XXXXX

Paul Newe lives in Ballymena and his uncle, G.B. Newe, was involved in the administration of some of refugee camps housing Gibraltarians during the Second World War. He died in 1981 and left his nephew a quantity of camp memorabilia – this includes photographs, drawings and numerous lists. If any reader would like to be sent this unique collection then contact should be made with Paul at 3 Middlepark Avenue, Cushendall, Ballymena, Co, Antrim, Northern Ireland BT44 OTH.

XXXXX

Reg Andlaw, Gibraltar's champion in the West Country, has been engaged in a fiery exchange of letters with John Turner of BBC Radio Bristol. His final letter reads:

"I enjoy listening to your lively morning discussions on Radio Bristol but I became more than a little irritated this morning by your derogatory and ill-informed comments about Gibraltar. I picked out, amongst others, that Gibraltar is 'tacky', is run by 'racketeers' and that today's referendum in Gibraltar will 'make no difference' because Blair/Straw have already agreed to share sovereignty with Spain.

Tacky it may be in places – but no more so that parts of most cities (including Bristol?). Racketeers may exist – but don't they everywhere (including Bristol?). But, more importantly, the agreement you referred to, which Jack Straw announced on July 12, was only a broad agreement in principle (bad enough though that is) and the British Government would have to renege on a promise, written into the Preamble of the Gibraltar Constitution (1969), that '

Her Majesty's Government will never enter into arrangements under which the people of Gibraltar would pass under the sovereignty of another state against their freely and democratically expressed wishes'. Would Blair/Straw go so far as to break that promise? Appeasing Spain with a 'broad agreement of principle' is one thing: going a step further would be another. I think the British people (although not you perhaps) would crucify them if they did. Because you do not like the place – '7 hours was long enough' (how many years ago was that?) – you seem to have no respect for the rights of the Gibraltarians to determine their own future (I have not forgotten a remark you made a year or two ago to the effect that Spain could have the place for all you care). A pretty tacky attitude, in my opinion. I look forward to hearing more of your provocative – and usually fair – discussions on your morning programme.'

XXXXX

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, under the signature of the Foreign Secretary, issued 10 page response to the FAC Report. This can be read on the FAC website.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government reaffirmed that the local Community Care payments are defensible under EU law and will continue to be paid on the present basis without it being reduced or withdrawn from anybody in Gibraltar.

XXXXX

An unexploded shell was uncovered by workers at the site of the Old Naval hospital is the spot known affectionately as 'The Admiral's Walk'.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Heritage Trust has refurbished the Black Watch Memorial which stands at Catalan Bay road.

XXXXX

The Minister for Tourism has formed a steering committee to oversee the programme of events to mark the 300th anniversary of the capture of Gibraltar by Admiral Sir George Rooke. Its members are John Bassadone, Peter Canessa, James Gaggero, Richard Garcia, Joe Hernandez, Albert Poggio and Tony Welsh.

XXXXX

Michael Palin began and ended his epic television programme 'Sahara' at Gibraltar.

XXXXX

Now that the end game is in sight both Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson (chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Parliamentary Group) are going out of their way to woo the Gibraltarians. Not content with little Leo holding a Rock Ape on this year's official No 10 Christmas card, Tony has praised Cherie and called her 'his Rock'. This was echoed in turn by Peter calling Tony 'his Rock.' The next phase might be a meeting between the Chief Minister and the Prime Minister, followed by an official visit to the Rock by the Prime Minister in 2004.

XXXXX

A reader in Northern Ireland has sent the Gibraltar Chronicle a copy of the Souvenir Number of The Camp Courier published on 3 January 1947. Its cover is a drawing by A.L.Lavagna of the Rock as seen from Spain.

The pages cover news from the camps at Clough, Saintfield, Carryduff, Tawneybrack and Dunnaird.

Amongst the Gibraltarians mentioned are Carmen Gilbert, C.J. Raggio, F. Riera, Nigel Walker, Lina Castro, Aida Abensur, Diana Lima, Luis Quelcuti, Alberto Dalmedo, Luis Devono, Edward Piris, Joseph Contreras, Edward Garcia, Lourdes Padina, Maribel Alvarez, Francis Alvarez, James Acris, Anna Alvarez, Robert Alvarez, Domingo Monteverde, Antonio Lia and Louis Castro,

XXXXX

Margaret Henderson, a Scot, is researching an article about Scottish connections with Gibraltar. Any reader with such nuggets of information should contact her on fax 0044 1659 66218.

XXXXX

Namaste is the magazine of the Hindu community on the Rock and is published annually. This is an essential read as it is jam packed with information about this important element in the ethnic make of the Gibraltarians. It lists all the Hindu traders on the Rock and all members of the community. Amazingly more than 110 have businesses in Main Street.

XXXXX

Christine Grummitt reports that she visited the Toc H church near the Tower of London to see the baptismal font cover carved by Grinling Gibbons. To her utter amazement she read that the font itself is carved by a Sicilian prisoner of war from a chunk of Gibraltar limestone which had been donated by the Royal Engineers during World War 11.

XXXXX

Sources close to the Intelligence Services report on the next Governor thus; 'Frank was invalided out of the Royal Green Jackets as a result of a horrific car crash in England. He is regarded as a spy master par excellence both by those at the National Security Agency and down at Cheltenham. Richards is first and foremost an intelligence specialist and his appointment send a clear signal to the Spanish Government that Gibraltar is now regarded as a key base in which there will be a major upgrade in intelligence capability. For example NRO satellites are likely to be

given new taskings to provide better coverage for Gibraltar and greater early warning by means of infra-red heat signatures.

Sir Francis is very much his own man and is expected to wholeheartedly support the wishes of the Gibraltarians.'

XXXXX

David Houghton is trying to find the heirs to the 'Cavilla and Bruzon' photographic company. David is trying to track down the old records because he has acquired family photographs which include ones of his grandfather, Alfred George Houghton, born on the Rock in 1871. He searching for information about his great grandparents George Adam Houghton married to Isobel Howe – both thought to be Gibraltarians but of whom he can find no records.

Any reader able to help should contact him on; davidh@blueskyinternet.com.au

XXXXX

Lord Maclaurin, businessman extraordinaire and recent supremo of English cricket, flies regularly to Gibraltar as he is a golf addict and has a holiday home along the Costa. On a recent flight he was engaged in conversation by Rosemary Azzopardi and told about Gibraltar's outstanding cricket teams over the past few decades. Lord MacLaurin said he would be delighted to help Gibraltar cricket.

XXXXX

Albert Poggio addressed the Swinton Circle. The subject was 'The political situation following the decisive rejection by the people of Gibraltar of joint sovereignty with the United Kingdom and Spain; the work of the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Association; making British people from overseas feel welcome in their own homeland'.

XXXXX

Norman and Mary Cox were so delighted with the appreciation shown by those on the Rock to their generous loan of a set of prints to the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the news that the recent change of law enables their children to apply to be registered as Gibraltarians, that their Christmas card is a photograph of the Union and Gibraltar flags proudly flying at the frontier. The children can apply for registration as their mother, the former Mary Cruz, is a Gibraltarian.

XXXXX

It is understood that the Gibraltar Government made the successful bid at a Bonham's auction for the Thomas Whitcombe (1752-1824) painting of the relief of Gibraltar by Admiral Lord Howe. It is likely that this historic canvas will be displayed in the Gibraltar museum. It was painted in 1792.

XXXXX

The red top diary columns are full of the story that Jerry Hall and Gibraltarian banker Tim Attias are back together again. There is even speculation that the knot might be tied on the Rock.

A source close to Jerry said: "Tim is a private person and even does not like Jerry talking about their relationship. People call Tim a toy boy because he is ten years younger than Jerry. It really annoys her as he is not a toy boy. Tim is intelligent, generous and very mature. He is an equal, not some young stud. They connect and are on the same plane."

XXXXX

Dr Dominic Heaney has been awarded the 5,000 Euro prize by the International Bureau for Epilepsy for his paper on 'Social Classes and Epilepsy.' The award was presented at a luncheon in Madrid.

XXXXX

GB Airways has announced the appointment of Guillermo Serrano to its Board of Directors as a Non - Executive Director.

XXXXX

Richard Spring and Keith Simpson stayed at the Rock Hotel during their recent fact finding visit to Gibraltar. The deputy governor invited them to attend a Convent briefing but as the Governor was away it was decided to send a junior official to the Rock Hotel to brief the Members of Parliament.

It so happened that the editor was not aware of these arrangements and was taking afternoon tea, it so happened, behind a pillar, in the lounge. He noticed Richard and Keith sitting down in front of the windows and enjoying the view of the most beautiful bay in the world.

Some time later he noticed a young man, dressed in what in national service days would have been deemed to be young subaltern civies, bound across the room and sit down with them. Keith is famous throughout Westminster for his stentorian voice and anyone who talking to him automatically raises his voice.

And so it came to pass that this young diplomat duly entertained those taking tea with a briefing about the Gibraltar problem as seen from the Convent. Naturally the editor, as soon as he realised what was happening, moved away so that he could not hear the briefing.

The moral of this tale is that young diplomats should not brief in public areas.

XXXXX

ITV recently broadcast a programme featuring Leo Sayer visiting Los Angeles to meet Albert Hammond to discuss the Gibraltarian's production of a future album.

Inspired by this programme, the question in a Steve Wright BBC Radio 2 programme was to ask the singer's name of Albert Hammond's composition 'When I need You'. The answer: the aforementioned, Leo Sayer.

XXXXX

Manuel Marin, the PSOE's new spokesman for Foreign Affairs has called on the PP Government to give a full explanation for the fiasco in the negotiations over Gibraltar between the British and Spanish Governments.

XXXXX

Jane Langdon won first prize in the 30th International Art Exhibition.

XXXXX

The Opposition hosted a visit to the Rock by the ruling Basque Nationalist party (PNV).

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government welcomed the British Government's initiative in setting up Air Safety International Limited.

XXXXX

Melon Diesel released their third CD 'REAL.'

XXXXX

The Foreign office stated that the Gibraltar Government's decision to continue to accept single-hull vessels complies with EU law and is consistent with British Government policy.

XXXXX

Chess Grand Master Nigel Short was the joint winner of the first Gibtele.com international chess tournament held at the Caleta Hotel.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Heritage Trust's first lecture of 2003 was given by Dr Nadia Erzini on: 'The 19th century Moroccan Consulate in Gibraltar; some recent discoveries in the Erzini archive in Tetuan.'

XXXXX

Five Greenpeace activists and 15 Spanish journalists were arrested by Royal Gibraltar Police as they launched a daring stunt in protest against the presence of single-hull tankers in the Bay of Gibraltar. The stunt lost all political credibility when Greenpeace issued a press release incorrectly calling Gibraltar Bay the Bay of Algeciras.

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Ironically, the next day a Spanish bunker barge, hired by CEPESA, sunk in rough waters in Gibraltar bay one mile west of the refinery. It sank with 950 tonnes of light fuel oil, 70 tonnes of gas oil, and 50 tonnes of diesel oil on board. Tragically there was loss of life with the death of the captain. The Gibraltar Government responded to a call for help from the Algeciras port authority and provided all manner of resources including oil booms.

XXXXX

Tony Provasoli succeeded Pepe Caruana as Chairman of the Finance Centre Council.

XXXXX

The figure for unemployed Gibraltarians for the quarter ended 31 December 2002 stood at 316.

XXXXX

The European Commission confirmed that there are no plans to force Gibraltar into either the Customs Union or the VAT regime.

XXXXX

Nigel Farage, UK INDEP MEP, was the guest of honour and principal speaker at GFSB dinner.

XXXXX

Cracks have been discovered on the ceiling of the Mayor's Council Chamber which was restored and refurbished three years ago. The ceiling is also showing signs of paint flaking. Joe Desoiza believes works being carried out in the room above may have caused the damage. He said; 'Heritage, and a building of such historical importance make strange bedfellows with a modern government office, and if the upstairs room is being used as an office and being altered to accommodate the requirements of office staff, inevitably the effects will be seen in the Chamber and we are seeing them.'

The cost of the original work was paid for by the FOGHS and the Gibraltar Heritage Trust with the major part being paid by the Gibraltar Government.

Joe Desoiza will be delivering a report at the FOGHS meeting at the IWM on 25 February.

XXXXX

The Gibraltar Government announced a new £3 million prison at Lathbury Barracks. This will free up the tourist potential of Moorish Castle.

XXXXX

Gibraltar hosted the world launch of the new XJ Jaguar car.

XXXXX

FEBRUARY 2003

The Chief Minister paid a frenetic 24 hour visit to London. Its objective was to remind opinion formers and the media that the Gibraltar issue had not been kicked into the long grass by the Labour Government.

The programme was masterminded by Francis Cantos, the tireless Director of Communications. It started with an interview on the Today programme, BBC's flagship radio programme.

This was followed by a press briefing and lunch at the Foreign Press Association where some fifty journalists were present to listen to Peter Caruana deliver an analysis of the state of play following the Referendum. Premier division journalists were present from the Times, the Daily Telegraph, Reuters, Mail, BBC World Service and the Wall Street Journal. Spanish journalists were on parade from Radio Nacional de Espana, El Pais, El Periodico de Catalunya, El Correo, Antenna 3, El Mundo and Avui as were distinguished free lance journalists such as Katarzyna Bzowska-Budd (Poland), Veronique Mistiaen (USA), Hugh O'Shaughnessy, Ruth Rees and Any Smith (Institute of Journalists). Writers from the Arab World included Ammar Al-Jundi (Ashardq Al-Awsat), Sydney Assor (Morocco) and Hosny Emam, (Kuwait News Agency),

Marianne Young represented the eyes and ears of the Foreign Office.

This was followed by a no holds barred questions and answer session. The Spanish journalists concentrated their questions on the Prestige incident and the Chief Minister's answers left them with considerable egg on their faces. Thus they missed an opportunity to ask a range of far more important questions. Paul Halloran (Intelligence Online, France), attempted to belittle the Finance Centre. This enabled the Chief Minister to draw attention to the fact that Gibraltar was the cleanest and best regulated finance centre in Europe with a reputation endorsed by the British Foreign Secretary, the American Government, OECD and the FATF. He also drew attention to the fact that the members of the Financial Services Commission were selected by and reported to the Foreign Secretary.

After lunch the Chief Minister was driven to the BBC where he recorded interviews for BBC World Television and BBC 24. The former will be broadcast at 4.30 pm on Sunday and the latter at 8.30am on Monday.

By 7.30 he was at the Reform Club where he addressed the Club's Media Group.

Three important items of incorrect news were published. A BBC press release stated that the Chief Minister was in London for discussions on Gibraltar's role if there is a war with Iraq; it also said that he was in London to discuss Gibraltar's future. The Morning Star reported that Peter Caruana spoke to the Prime Minister.

Another flawless performance by the Chief Minister.

XXXXXX

Mrs Elma Dangerfield has agreed that FOGHS members can attend the European Atlantic group dinners. The Group can be visited on the web at www.eag.org.uk.

Michael Howard speaks on Tuesday 11 March and Sir Emyr Jones-Parry on Thursday 3 April. Members wishing to buy tickets should contact Justin Glass 0207 352 1226.

XXXXX

David Durie, shortly to be knighted, will now be staying on the Rock until early May with the new Governor Sir Francis Richards arriving towards the end of May.

XXXXX

Fernando Villalba is the new Press Counsellor at the Spanish Embassy.

XXXXX

The Polish Consul General wrote to state that the Polish Ambassador will not be organising a visit to Gibraltar on 4 July to mark the 60th anniversary of the death of General Sikorski. It appears that a ceremony will be held in front of the Sikorski statue in Portland Place. As this was demanded by the Spanish Government many months ago, it is a clear case of game, set and match to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The FOGHS party will pay their respects to the General during the June visit.

XXXXX

Francis Cantos is to be congratulated for being instrumental in getting the legendary Australian song writer/singer onto the same Today programme as the Chief Minister. Peter Caruana was asked whether Nick would be invited down to Gibraltar and he replied to the effect that Nick would be most welcome at an opportune moment.

The link between the Chief Minister and the composer is that on February 3 Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds released the album 'Nocturama'. The 8th track is called 'The Rock of Gibraltar'. This is not a rehash of the Frankie Laine hit, 'The Rock of Gibraltar', the story of a travelling brush salesman that was a huge hit in the 1950. Nick's Rock is about unrequited love. Here are the lyrics.

ROCK OF GIBRALTAR

Let me say this to you
I'll be steadfast and true
And my love will never falter

The sea would crash about us
The waves would lash about us
I'll be your Rock of Gibraltar

Sometimes it's hard

And we're both caught off guard
But there's nothing I would ever alter

The wind could howl round our ears
For the next thousand years
I'd still be your Rock of Gibraltar

The best thing I done
Was to make you the one
Who I'd walk with down to the altar

You'd stand by me
And together we'd be
That great, steady Rock of Gibraltar

Under the big yellow moon
On our honeymoon
I took you on a trip to Malta

And all through the night
You held me so tight
Your great, steady Rock of Gibraltar

Could the powers that be
Ever foresee
That things could so utterly alter?

All the plans that we laid
Could soon be betrayed
Betrayed like the Rock of Gibraltar
XXXXX

SIR FRANCIS RICHARDS KCMG, CVO

We met in the London office of the GCHQ. Security is tight, as to be expected, and despite being listed in the appointments book, identity has to be produced which is where the Gibraltar identity card proved its value.

Sir Francis' reputation goes before him and he is known to be calm, courteous and never displays what he is thinking. He also has a commanding presence and stands well over six foot four inches tall.

His father, Sir Brooks Richard, was a war hero and during World War 11 served on the Rock in the Royal Navy on special duties and was awarded the DSC and Bar. After the war he entered the diplomatic service and during his career was Ambassador, Saigon and Ambassador, Greece. Unfortunately he suffered a stroke last summer and although Sir Francis knew of his appointment as Governor he was unable to communicate this news to his father before he died.

EDUCATION

After school at Eton he spent a year off before going up to King's College Cambridge, following as it were in the footsteps of General Sir William Jackson. As a school boy Francis had decided that he wished for a career in the Army but decided to go up to Cambridge as a civilian rather than an Army sponsored entrant. However upon arrival at King's he made no effort to disguise the fact that he would be joining the military as soon as he graduated. This required considerable courage in a College famed for its left wing and pacifist views. As he wryly says, 'In such an environment I became the rebel but after my fellow undergraduates got over the initial shock I spent three very happy years there'.

ARMY

In 1967 after Cambridge, Francis was commissioned into the Royal Green Jackets, the regiment of his first choice and spent two happy years before being invalided out after a horrific car crash in England. For a period of time he served in Cyprus under the command of Robin Eveleigh (by coincidence the same Colonel Eveleigh who has loaned his collection of guns and other artefacts to the Gibraltar museum) and this was the time when Turkey and Greece were on the brink of war over the island.

When he was discharged from hospital the doctors told him that he would be able to use his legs only for some ten years but thirty years later his legs are holding out and show no signs of giving up on him. He says with a smile that his performance will not be as smart as that of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment but he will get by and no one will be let down.

Sir Francis assures traditionalists that he will arrive in Gibraltar at the end of May, by man of war if circumstances permit, wearing the full uniform of a civilian governor.

In what is another amazing coincidence Francis Richards was knighted because the position of Director of GCHQ, which is a security establishment, has the same grade as a four star general. So despite being forced to make a career change he has ended up with the equivalent of highest military rank, today there being no more appointments of five star rank (Field Marshal).

DIPLOMATIC SERVICE

Having left the army he looked for another career that would enable him to continue the family tradition of serving the country. This was the time when the Cold war was at its height and so the Foreign Office was an attractive alternative career and one that also provided a certain amount of adventure.

His first year was spent in London and he took over as a desk officer for Cambodia three weeks before the American invasion. He had told the Personnel Department he would like his next move to be a post which would provide opportunity for travel and one that would not require learning a language. The department in its wisdom sent him to an Army School of Languages to learn Russian and then on to Moscow when Anglo-Russian relations were at an all time low as the British Government had thrown out 105 KGB agents. At this time he was a good honest diplomat but began to have contact with the

intelligence world and this link continued in a number of subsequent jobs. Explicitly full time intelligence began much later.

The next appointment in 1973 was as a member of the British delegation to the MBFR (Mutual Balanced Forces Reduction). The objective of MBFR was to keep American troops in Europe despite the efforts of Senator Mansfield to press them to return to the United States. The European Nations did not agree with the Senator and came up with the diplomatic solution that any withdrawal of American forces had to be matched by a similar withdrawal by Russian forces. This involved occasional formal meetings linked to a great deal of political horse-trading which also involved long walks in the Vienna woods evoking memories of the Third Man and Harry Lime. This dragged on for a number of years and in the meantime Francis had returned to King Charles Street where he worked from 1976-85 and from 1981-82 was Assistant Private Secretary to Lord Carrington and then Francis Pym when they were Foreign Secretaries. This was at the time of the Falklands War which resulted in the resignations of Lord Carrington and Richard Luce.

In 1971 he married Gillian Nevill and so the nine years in London enabled them to stabilise their domestic life and they had a son and a daughter. Gillian Nevill was also able to pursue her successful career as a television presenter and journalist for ITV and Channel 4. Towards the end of this assignment he tried repeatedly to be posted abroad as he did not fancy himself as a London based bureaucrat. Eventually persistence prevailed and he was posted to New Delhi as Economic and Commercial Counsellor. This involved a tremendous amount of travelling building up trade between the two nations.

After three years he returned to London as the head of the South Asian department where his role was that of deciding policy and coincided with the Afghan war and the eventual Russian withdrawal. At this stage in his career he had close contact with intelligence matters.

The wander lust had not abated and he applied for the position of High Commissioner of the new State of Namibia. He went out to Windhoek for two years to open up a new Mission. The duties involved helping set up the country's new institutions and being involved with the training of the army. The Queen also made a State visit.

In 1992 he was sent to Moscow as Minister immediately after the fall of President Gorbachev and it was a country in total chaos leading up to the siege of the White House. In 1994 came the award of the CMG.

Then in 1995 it was back to London as Director, Europe. Francis started off with Eastern Europe and then it was combined with Western Europe and so he was responsible for Europe beginning at the Atlantic and continuing to the Pacific. It was now that he became involved with Gibraltar and made his first visit when Sir Hugo White was Governor. Subsequently he flew down again during the tenure of Sir Richard Luce.

His main preoccupation during these two years were the negotiations to enlarge NATO. Needless to say he met some senior Spanish diplomats and was the recipient of a host of protests from the Spanish Government.

Today the Foreign Office is in the process of altering its structure to accommodate the enlargement of the European Union from 15 to 25 States. This should take place during April.

From 1997 to 98 he was Deputy Under-Secretary of State where the focus was on defence and intelligence and then in 1998 came the appointment as Director of GCHQ or as the tabloids would have it, Britain's Master Spy. As this position is the equivalent of the rank of four star general he was knighted by Her Majesty (KCMG).

There are three intelligence agencies - M15, M16 and GCHQ. The M in the first two used to signify Military Intelligence but today M15 and M16 are civilian intelligence agencies whilst GCHQ is the security agency. The three agencies are supervised by Sir David Omand, the deputy to the Cabinet Secretary.

SECURITY

Sir Francis considered it to be highly unlikely that his presence on the Rock would increase the possibility of a terrorist attack. He did not think that security would be increased but that is a decision for those responsible for security.

He said: 'I shall be keeping a close watch on security and ensure that it matches any possible threat to Gibraltar. I intend to walk around Gibraltar without a bodyguard. I have never had a bodyguard in my present job and I do not

consider my personal safety an issue. I don't think my arrival as Governor will change anything in any way. I accept that I am slightly less of a civilian than the normal civilian. In any event these matters are for security experts.

Naturally Gibraltar has a great history as a military and naval base which is bound to make it a potential target for terrorists. So security remains of the utmost importance'.

INTELLIGENCE

'My selection had nothing to do with any intelligence interests in Gibraltar. You asked me to speculate why I was chosen and I suspect this is to do with my strong association with the Armed Forces and National Defence. I doubt if it is to do with the intricacies of Whitehall bureaucracy.'

ADC

Sir Francis intends to continue the tradition of having a Gibraltar as ADC.

LADY RICHARDS

Lady Richards will continue the custom set by her predecessors and they both wish to become involved with as many different aspects of life in Gibraltar as possible. They both have an interest in heritage Their children, a son and a daughter have fled the nest, are single and work in London. Both will be coming out for holidays.

FORMER GOVERNORS

All the former Governors have written to congratulate him on his appointment and he looks forward to meeting some of them before he leaves for Gibraltar.

INTELLIGENCE

Sir Francis took the trouble to explain the rationale behind GCHQ.

'The last years have been a period for all intelligence agencies to make the transition from the cold war to working out what national security requirements were in a new but equally dangerous world They had to go out and find what they were supposed to be doing in this world. This obviously required them to be a very different sort of organisation in order to complete that transition from what really was a static one that had not changed much in 50 years to one which you do not know what is going to hit you three months from now.

This has meant considerable investment, the end of the peace dividend, the end of annual cuts, and a period of quite rapid and steep growth. It also meant a huge new building and a very busy and important period for British Intelligence.'

IN THE EVENT OF A CLASH

Sir Francis said that he saw his role to give honest, objective advice to the British Government. He insists that the Foreign Secretary would not have appointed him to this job if Jack Straw just wanted him to shut up and just do what he is told.

He said, 'I think I owe it to the Foreign Secretary to give him an honest view - that is what is the right thing to do in the interests of Britain and Gibraltar. That is what the Foreign Secretary would expect. As Governor I have responsibility in three directions – to HM the Queen, the British Government and the people of Gibraltar. I have to represent these perhaps different views fairly. This is something I am pretty used to as the job of the intelligence agency is that for most of the time it has to tell people things that they do not particularly want to hear. This will not be an unfamiliar role'.

TIMETABLE

Sir Francis is still Director of GCHQ at a crucial time. He thinks it would be a mistake to try and do two jobs at the same time. So he ceases to be Director at the beginning of April and will then spend the next few weeks meeting a wide variety of people involved with Gibraltar including Gibraltarians and read himself in.

Sir Francis ended the interview saying, 'I am looking forward enormously to arriving on the Rock. Gibraltar has a unique place in the history and affections of Britain and its Armed Forces. It is hard for me to imagine a greater honour than to serve as Governor – or a better time to do so than in the approach to its 300th anniversary since its capture by Admiral Sir George Rooke.'

The FOGHS would like to thank GB Airways and Mr Albert Poggio MBE for paying the postage of this newsletter

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Contributions wanted: in particular reminiscences from members about life on the Rock pre 1980 and recipes from Gibraltar – copy for the next issue should be sent by 28 January 2002 to Michael Brufal, 24 Guernsey Drive, Ancells Farm, Fleet, Hampshire GU13 8TG Tel: 01252 652030 Fax: 01252 811617 E mail – lendinez @ aol.com

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