

FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 74

OCTOBER 2005

NEW MEMBERS: Hugo Page Croft; Maud Page Croft;

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VISIT TO THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Thanks to the good offices of Dominick Chilcott, members have been invited to go on a tour of the FCO on Wednesday 23 November 2005.

Surprisingly there are still places left on what is a rare tour. Those wishing to attend please send a cheque for £10 made payable to FOGHS.

Members should RV between 5.30 and 5.50 pm at The Red Lion, 48 Parliament Street, which is just opposite King Charles 11 Street. The tour starts at 6 pm and lasts a maximum of 90 minutes.. There are plenty of hostelryes and restaurants in the vicinity for those who wish to dine afterwards.

Cheques should be sent to Michael Brufal at 24 Guernsey Drive, Ancells Farm, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 2TG.

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2006 GIBRALTAR VISIT

This takes place from Sunday 11 June until Sunday 18 June. The Queen's birthday parade is on Thursday 15 June. Dave Eveson will provide a totally different programme which will include some of the old favourites. Please contact Brenda Brufal on Bbrufal@aol.com for a reservation which at this stage is without commitment.

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SEMINAR 2005

37 Friends made the annual pilgrimage to Warwick to attend this year's seminar. Joe Ballantine, Chairman, The Gibraltar Heritage Trust, spoke on 'The Funicular project and other Heritage related events in Gibraltar'. This was followed by Dr Jennifer Ballantine Perera who talked about 'Culture & Identity and the Gibraltar project at Lancaster University'. Last but not least was Tito Benady who showed a video presentation – A walk through history – followed by a talk on 'The Royal Navy at the time of Nelson'.

As usual the Chairman's reception was held ahead of the excellent dinner in the Copenhagen Room.

The participants were Sir John Chapple, Celia and Daniel Sheehan, Peter Elvin, Mike and Brenda Brufal, Elizabeth McCutchan, Freda Stuart, Neville and Janet Whiteley, David and Diana Heck, Billy Robinson, Harvey and Trisha Johnson, David and Sandra Inker, John and Selena Borda, Tito and Anne Benady, Mary Hirst, Lois Bailey, Joe and Sylvia Ballantine, Ernest and Marcella Reading, Paul Blake, Paul and Lilian Baker, Jennifer Ballantine Perera, Victor and Magda Risso, Jennifer Scheer, Maggie Loughran, Les and Elaine Piercy.

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SEMINAR 2006

This will take place at The Warwick Arms Hotel, Warwick on Saturday 30th September. Those wishing to reserve a place should contact Janet Whiteley on telephone 01264 811101, mobile 0780 194 8306 or email janet.stockbridge@btopenworld.com

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RESIGNATION

Isaac Hassan, after many years' loyal service, has resigned from the Committee as he is moving to Israel to take up a challenging job.

The Committee thanks Isaac for all the hard work undertaken on behalf of the membership.

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ADMIRAL LORD NELSON BICENTENERARY VISIT

24TH TO 31ST October 2005

Dinner at the International Casino – Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell; John and Juliet Bewley; Mike and Brenda Brufal; Chris and Lesley Challcombe; Jim and Marianne Copp; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Peter Fisher; Paul Gray; Desmond Robinson; Peter and Andrea Green; Derek and

Mary Hayes; Mary Hirst; David and Sandra Inker; Harvey and Tricia Johnson; Bill and Jean Kerr; Brian and Barbara Longworth; Neil MacLachlan; Michael and Gilly Mann; David Morris; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; Les and Elaine Piercy; Bill Snailham; William Snailham; Victor and Magda Risso; David and Jill Southward; Richard and Ditte Wells; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Spencer; Anne Benady; Ernest and Marcella Reading; Hilary Wines.; David Morris ; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West; Anne Fitzwilliams; George and June Fulcher; Brian and Stephanie Waters; Robert and Jennifer Tellez;

Remembrance Service – John and Juliet Bewlay; Mike and Brenda Brufal; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Robin and Gabrielle Evelegh; Paul Gray; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; Desmond Robinson; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Benady; Victor and Magda Risso; Hilary Wines; George and June Fulcher; Les and Elaine Piercy; Robert and Jennifer Tellez; Peter Fisher; Mary Norfolk; Michael and Gilly Mann;

Visit to Cape Trafalgar – Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell; John and Juliet Bewley; Mike and Brenda Brufal; John, Julie and Callum Cant; Chris and Lesley Challcombe; Jim and Marianne Copp; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Robin Evelegh; Paul Gray; Peter and Andrea Green; David Morris; Alan Stanley; Barry Mosley; Derek and Mary Hayes; Mary Hirst; David and Sandra Inker; Bill and Jean Kerr; Neil MacLachlan; Michael and Gilly Mann; Barry Moseley; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; Les and Elaine Piercy; Victor and Magda Risso; Desmond Robinson; Richard and Ditte Wells; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Spencer; Paul Baker; Anne Benady; Ernie and Marcella Reading; Father Vincent Docherty; Anne Fitzwilliams; George and June Fulcher; Brian and Barbara Longworth; Brian and Stephanie Waters; Robert and Jennifer Tellez; Harvey and Tricia Johnson;

Royal Marines Band Concert, St Michael's Cave – John and Juliet Bewley; John, Judy and Callum Cant; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Peter Fisher; Peter and Andrea Green; Derek and Mary Hayes; Mary Hirst; David and Sandra Inker; Harvey and Tricia Johnson; Michael and Gilly Mann; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Neil MacLachlan; Jenny Penn; Les and Elaine Piercy; Victor and Magda Risso; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Spencer; Anne Benady; Hilary Wines; Paul Gray; Desmond Robinson; George and June Fulcher;

The Convent – John and Juliet Bewley; Brenda and Mike Brufal; Jim and Marianne Copp; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Peter Fisher; Paul Gray; Derek and Mary Hayes; Bill and Jean Kerr; David Morris; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Les and Elaine Piercy; Victor and Magda Risso; Desmond Robinson; Richard and Ditte Wells; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Fitzwilliams; George and June Fulcher; Brian and Brenda Austin; Robert and Jennifer Tellez; Brian and Barbara Longworth;

Tunnel Tour – John and Juliet Bewley; John, Judy and Callum Cant; Chris and Lesley Challcombe; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Robin Evelegh; Peter and Andrea Green; Michael and Gilly Mann; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Donald and Helen McCutchan, Grace McCutchan, Mary McCutchan; Richard and Ditte Wells; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Paul Gray; Peter Fisher; Mary Hirst; David Morris; Victor and Magda Risso; George and June Fulcher; Brian and Barbara Longworth; Dominic Heaney; Tabitha Heaney; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West.

Alameda Gardens and Trafalgar cemetery – John and Juliet Bewley; Mike and Brenda Brufal; John, Judy and Callum Cant; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Paul Gray; Derek and Mary Hayes; Harvey and Tricia Johnson; Bill and Jean Kerr; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; D. Robinson; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Benady; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Desmond Robinson; Anne Fitzwilliams; Victor and Magda Risso; George and June Fulcher; Peter and Andrea Green; Brian and Brenda Austin; Peter Fisher; Richard and Ditte Wells; Mary Norfolk; Dominic Heaney; Tabitha Heaney

Freedom of the City – John and Juliet Bewley; Mike and Brenda Brufal; Dominic and Tabitha Heaney; Zelda and Oscar Heaney; John, Judy and Callum Cant; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Robin and Gabrielle Evelegh; Derek and Mary Hayes; Harvey and Tricia Harvey; Bill and Jean Kerr; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Benady; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Victor and Magda Risso, Hilary Wines, George and June Fulcher, Peter and Andrea Green, Neil MacLachlan, Robert and Jennifer Tellez, Peter Fisher, Richard and Ditte Wells, Mary Norfolk,

Rock Hotel; Farewell dinner - Sir Derek and Lady Reffell; John and Juliet Bewley; Mike and Brenda Brufal; Brian and Audrey Dutton; Robin and Gabrielle Evelegh; Paul Gray; Derek and Mary Hayes; Peter and Andrea; Harvey and Tricia Johnson; Bill and Jean Kerr; Michael and Gilly Mann; Hugo and Maud Page Croft; Elizabeth, Donald, Helen, Grace and Mary McCutchan; Riccard and Lesley Parsonson; Jenny Penn; Desmond Robinson; Martin and Jan West; Benjamin West; Neville and Janet Whiteley; Anne Benady; Victor and Magda Rizzo; Hilary Wines; Neil MacLachlan; Les and Elaine Piercy; Peter Fisher; Richard and Ditte Wells; Mary Norfolk; George and June Fulcher; Tim and Lorna Lawson-Cruttenden; Venetia and Imogen Lawson-Cruttenden.

Rosia Bay and Parson's Lodge – Admiral Sir Derek and Lady Reffell, John and Juliet Bewley, John, Judy and Callum Cant, Mike and Brenda Brufal, Brian and Audrey Dutton, Robin Evelegh, Paul Gray, Derek and Mary Hayes, Harvey and Tricia Johnson, Bill and Jean Kerr, Hugo and Maud Page Croft, Elizabeth, Donald, Helen, Grace and Mary McCutchan, Riccard and Lesley Parsonson, Jenny Penn, Desmond Robinson, Neville and Janet Whiteley, Anne Benady, Victor and Magda Rizzo, Hilary Wines, George and June Fulcher, Peter and Andrea Green, Neil MacLachlan, Les and Elaine Piercy, Robert and Jennifer Tellez, Peter Fisher, Richard and Ditte Wells, Mary Norfolk, David and Sandra Inker, Ernie and Marcella Reading.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

Monday 24 October 2030 hours Gimcrack Room, Rock Hotel

Briefing by Gibraltar Heritage Trust followed by a talk by Richard Garcia.

Tuesday 25 October

Morning. (2 hours) Visit to Convent under the command of Denis King. available.

1530 Talk by Pepe Rosado on the final fall of Gibraltar to Christian armies and a few anecdotes on Trafalgar and Nelson.

1830 hours Cocktail party at the Rock Hotel hosted by Joe Gaggero, President of the Bland Group of Companies.

Wednesday 26 October

1000 hours. Escorted walk with Andrew Abrines through the Alameda Gardens to the Trafalgar cemetery where a wreath will be laid on behalf of the Society.

1730 hours A visit to the Maritime exhibition at Casemates and an address by Dr Clive Finlayson

2000 for 2030 hours: The Admiral Lord Nelson dinner at the International Casino.

Thursday 27th October

0900 hours: Coach trip to Cape Trafalgar and Cadiz. Admiral Sir Derek Reffell will lay a wreath on behalf of the Society. During the coach ride Joe Desoiza will give an account of the battle as seen by Nelson whilst Denis King will describe the battle as seen by Admirals Villeneuve and Gravina.

2000 hours: Calpe Conference briefing, John MacKintosh Hall. Registration documents must be collected and pack of information collected on the first visit.

Friday 28th October

0900 hours optional - Tunnel tour led by John Murphy. 0900 hours optional - Opening of the Calpe Conference.

1400 hours: Visit to Rosia Bay where Admiral Sir Derek Reffell will lay a wreath. This will be followed by a tour of Parson's Lodge.

1700 hours: Unveiling of the statue of Admiral Lord Nelson by the Chief Minister.

2000 hours: Farewell dinner at the Rock Hotel

Saturday 29th October

0900 hours: Calpe Conference.

1100 hours: Freedom of the City Parade executed by the Royal Navy

1800 hours: Farewell cocktail party hosted by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust at the Garrison Library.

Sunday 30th October

0900 hours: Calpe Conference

1100 hours: Battle of Trafalgar Remembrance Service at Trafalgar cemetery.

2000 hours: A concert by the Band of the Royal Marines at St. Michael's Cave

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SPLICE THE MAINBRACE

The FOGHS delegation has been invited to send four representatives to a lunch at the Garrison Library hosted by the Commander British Forces. This is to take place after the Royal Navy had exercised their right as Freemen of the City of Gibraltar to march down Main Street with bands playing

and bayonets fixed. The First Sea Lord is scheduled to join the lunch and in honour of this rare privilege order 'Splice the Mainbrace'.

The representatives are David Inker, (the Board), Captain Michael Mann (male ex R.N. members), Gilly Mann (female ex R.N. members), Neil Maclachlan (Royal Marines).

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EUROPEAN-ATLANTIC GROUP

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

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LETTERS

Daily Telegraph – Commander Alan York

There is still some dispute about the fluids used to preserve Nelson's body after Trafalgar.

The generally accepted version is that his corpse, with its hair cut off according to his wishes and clad only in a shirt, was initially placed in a cask of brandy mixed with camphor and myrrh.

Lashed to the damaged mast of the Victory during the terrible storm that delayed their towed return to Gibraltar, it was guarded day and night by a sentry to deter souvenir hunters.

At Rosia Bay the corpse was transferred to a lead-lined coffin filled with spirits of wine. The sailors from Victory were rumoured to have polished off the unique brandy mixture and this, some would say, was the origin of the drink called 'Nelson's Blood'.

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The Boxing News recently reported that; 'The World Boxing Council has appointed Wayne McCullough a World Ambassador for Peace and Goodwill at their annual convention in Gibraltar, Spain from October 2-8'.

Pepe wrote this stinging letter. 'With all due respect I would like to make a correction concerning the WBC Convention which appeared in Boxing News. The convention takes place in the Spanish town of La Linea de la Concepcion, which borders Gibraltar and not in Gibraltar as stated.

Gibraltar has been British for 301 years (and still going strong) and I am a British Gibraltar and proud of it'.

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Gibraltar Chronicle – Michael Melgarejo

It is with regret that I must draw your attention to this heading; 'Fa: On the Marine Diversity of the Straits of Gibraltar'.

As you and every Gibraltar well know it is the Strait of Gibraltar.

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Gibraltar Chronicle – Michael Melgarejo

I read with incredulity and dismay an advertisement 'Invest in Queensway Quay' published in your paper on 6th October 2005.

It stated that Queensway Quay offers views across the Straits of Gibraltar, Algeciras Bay and North Africa'.

I do not have to remind you that it is the strait of Gibraltar and Gibraltar Bay.

I assume that the contents of advertisements are vetted by a member of staff; what happened this time?

It is of vital importance that such mistakes are not allowed to be published in Gibraltar's oldest daily newspaper and paper of record. How can the Fleet Street papers be expected to use the correct nomenclature when the Gibraltar Chronicle is at fault?

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ARCHBISHOP PETER AMIGO PLAQUE

Archbishop Amigo was the first Gibraltar to be appointed Archbishop of Southwark and was known throughout the Archdiocese as 'Friend of the Poor'.

He never forgot his Rock, taking a keen interest in the affairs of Gibraltarians, though he was only able to make three visits due to pressure of work. One visit in 1926 when he was able to carry out an Apostolic Visitation. The Bishop at the time, Dom Henry Thompson, was a Benedictine monk from Ramsgate who had been appointed in 1910. At the time Bishop Amigo had suggested to Rome that Mgr Bidwell of the Westminster Diocese might be a good appointment as he spoke both Spanish and English. Bishop Thompson however spoke no Spanish and was reluctant to learn the language. The result, as foreseen by Peter Amigo, was that he became distanced from the Clergy and people.

Bishop Amigo suggested to Bishop Thompson that he might consider retiring back to his monastery at Ramsgate. The Bishop complied with this suggestion and in 1927 was succeeded by Bishop Richard Fitzgerald.

The Gibraltar Government honoured the Archbishop by naming a block of flats after him and in 1980 he was included in a set of stamps issued by the Gibraltar Post Office entitled 'Famous Personalities'.

Some Gibraltarians feel that Archbishop Peter Amigo should be further honoured by the installation of a plaque setting out the highlights of his life. The Bishop, Monsignor Charles Caruana, welcomes this suggestion and has agreed that such a plaque be placed in the Cathedral of St. Mary the Crowned.

In order to achieve this objective a committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Charles Savignon and anyone wishing to make a contribution of £5 should write to him at PO Box 79 or email john.isola@anglo.gi. Alternatively any donation can be sent to Mike Brufal, 24 Guernsey Drive, Ancells Farm, Fleet, Hampshire GU51 2TG. Cheques should be made payable to 'Archbishop Amigo Appeal'.

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E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The Society wishes to maintain a record of those members with e-mail addresses. Please would you send your e-mail address to David Inker at davidjinker@msn.com and Mike Brufal at lendinez@aol.com

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GIBRALTAR HERITAGE TRUST NEWS

The unsightly fencing around the Rooke statue has been removed now that the vulnerable cannon-balls have been cemented in to protect them from vandals. The Trust is to put up low posts and chains. The nearby trees are to be moved thus providing a clearer view of the man who captured Gibraltar.

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The 2005 Gibraltar Heritage Trust Awards are ; Senior award to Pepe Rosado for his outstanding contribution to heritage and for hosting tours of the Convent and visits to other sites and also for his lectures to the FOGHS.

Group award to RAF (General Engineering Squadron), for the gift to the Gibraltarians of the Sikorski plaque and also for other projects for which labour and materials have not been charged.

Junior award to the pupils of Bayside School for the History Department's Tercentenary project, 'A walk through history'.

Book reports for Newsletter

Gibraltar Books has produced a second edition of the history of the Gibraltar Police by Cecilia Baldachino and Tito Benady. The first edition was a paperback published in Gibraltar in 1980 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the force. This new edition is a handsome hardback entitled, *The Royal Gibraltar Police 1830 – 2005*. It sells at a modest £10 because the printing was subsidised by a grant from the Government of Gibraltar.

The special edition of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal produced in conjunction with the Gibraltar Exhibition at the Jewish Museum in London last year is now in print and is available to members at £3 + £1.25 for postage and packing. The price in the book shops in Gibraltar is £4. This edition was subsidised by S M Seruya,

The contents of this Journal are: Foreword by the editor Isaac Hassan; a reprint of the 1930 book, *The Jews of Gibraltar under British Rule*, by A B M Serfaty; ‘The Rabbis in Gibraltar in the eighteenth century’, by Rabbi Ronald Hassid; ‘From Gibraltar to Jerusalem’ Solomon Seruya’s memoir of the time when he was Israeli ambassador to the Philippines; The Anglo-Jewish Association report on the Jewish Community of Gibraltar of 1868; an article on the illuminated marriage contracts of Gibraltar by Mesod Belilo; a description of the illuminated Haggadah (Passover account) published by Gibraltarian Benjamin Hassan; Tito Benady’s ‘The Settlement of Jews in Gibraltar 1704 – 1783’, which has been out of print for some time, and colour reproductions of some of the panels prepared for the Exhibition.

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EXTRA DISCOUNTS

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

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

On all Package holidays and cruises purchased we will give a 5% discount off the price. To take advantage of this special offer please contact Cadogan Worldwide Travel your membership of FOGHS.

Cadogan Travel, 159 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9BT

Telephone 020 7730 0721 Facsimile 020 7730 4976

Email London@cadogantravel.com or

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

Telephone 01202 417717 Facsimile 01202 418102

Email leisureboh@cadogantravel.com

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OBITUARY

The death has been announced of Philip Nowell. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

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MEMBERS’ NEWS

Lord Ramsbotham, former chief inspector of prisons, spoke about his book *Prisongate* at the Petersham hotel in Richmond.

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AUGUST

Nathan Payas, tenor, and Claudia Gaurin, soprano, gave two sold out recitals in the Convent.

Nathan Payas and Andrea Martin gave another sold out concert in St Theresa’s Church. The proceeds on this occasion were given to the Pathway Through Pain charity which has been set up in memory of Jenise Payas. John Bruzon accompanied the singers at all concerts.

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The Bassadone Group of Companies launched a Graduate Sponsorship Scheme to support Gibraltarian students with places at a University in the Mother Country.

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As part of the continuing osmosis between the Gibraltarians and Spaniards there was a huge flow into La Linea for every night of the fair.

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The Instituto de Estudios Campgibaltarenos has re-edited Drinkwater’s ‘A History of the late siege of Gibraltar’

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Third Battalion Military Intelligence cleared the area between Prince's Lines and All's Well Steps which is a section of the Northern Defences. The volunteers also went to Parson's Lodge where they cut, painted and restored part of an observation point which overlooks the site where Nelson's body might have been brought ashore after the Battle of Trafalgar. This is good news for Pepe Rosado and bad for Colin White as it indicates that British Military Intelligence is of the opinion that the body was brought ashore.

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The Gibraltar Regulatory Authority has published its Annual Report for the year 2005-2005. It can be read on www.gra.gi

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Melanie Chipolina was elected Miss Gibraltar 2005.

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Daily Telegraph 17 August 2005 Rev. Alan Hughes writes:

May I propose that Berwick-upon-Tweed be twinned with Gibraltar? We have a lot in common, having changed hands 14 times between England and Scotland, and being presently in English hands, just north of the Tweed.

A former governor, when appealing for help to London, was refused with the words "You are in the realm but not of it", and, until the Crimean War, Berwick was always mentioned separately in all Acts of Parliament.

Any twinning arrangement could bring economic benefits for Berwick, still sandwiched between England and Scotland and desperate for inward investment. Perhaps offshore status could somehow be learnt from Gibraltarians. As Vicar of Berwick, I have links with Gibraltar and would be happy to be a contact.

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Daily Telegraph 18 August 2005 Joseph Fox writes:

Rev. Alan Hughes does not go far enough. Berwick-upon-Tweed should be ceded to the Kingdom of Spain, in return for an end to Spain's opposition to Britain's sovereignty in Gibraltar.

As part of Spain, Berwick would be eligible for much more generous EU grants than at present, and ships registered there would be able to fly the Spanish flag, and thus be allowed to catch more fish than if they were British.

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Steve Anderson writes in the Goole Times : TOWN HAS LOST GIBRALTAR LINK

Gibraltar Court, that exotic-sounding housing development off North Street, is one of the few tangible signs that Goole was once twinned with The Rock. But, as former Goole Times journalist Steve Anderson (pictured, below left, on Gibraltar, explains after examining newly-released Government papers, the British colony might well have been paired instead with London, a south-coast port or absolutely nowhere.

It seemed a little implausible. Gibraltar was having one of its frequent spats with neighbouring Spain and, as a means of reassuring residents that they were not alone, the “mother country” stepped in to provide a concrete reminder of the Mediterranean outpost’s on-going Britishness. A partnership link, it was agreed, would be an appropriate method to recognise that loyalty.

Goole MP George Jeger and local councillor Charles Colmer were among those who worked tirelessly in support of the initiative, their labours finally bearing fruit in 1969 when the two communities tied the twinning knot.

I recall the time that a leading Gibraltarian politician marked the occasion by going for a swim in the Ouse, and there were other, more conventional, ways in which the “two Gs” developed their relationship, including the ubiquitous civic visits and an irregular, less formal, exchange of pleasantries.

The partnership continued for a few years at least, but never really captured the public’s imagination to the extent that its proponents had anticipated. Indeed, although I had written many an article for the Gibraltar Chronicle, counterpart of the Goole Times and also serving a population of around 20,000 people, I never really felt that the pairing arrangement was going anywhere.

That view was strengthened on two separate occasions when I visited the colony via the short ferry route from Tangier – and, yes, I have the photographs to prove it! Several public figures - among them Holme-on-Spalding Moor councillor and former Boothferry Mayor Doreen Engall - have tried to breathe new life into the twinning venture over the past two decades, always without success, and it’s doubtful now that the arrangements will ever be revived. Goole, of course, has since looked east for a new bedfellow, its link with Zlotow proving to have been established on a much-surer foundation than one built purely on Rock. Many residents of each town, especially teenagers involved in youth theatre, dance and music groups, have taken part in exchange visits and forged long-lasting friendships.

The partnership, proudly proclaimed on road signs at the entrance to Goole, has already stretched across two millennia and seems assured of a rosy future.

But, although the Gibraltar connection may have been effectively “Polish-ed” off, the twinning history of Goole’s former colony can still court publicity, as demonstrated last week when documents released by the National Archives revealed that the British Government wanted to change the status of The Rock in the late 1960s.

It was a period of major social and political change “back home”, with the UK still coming to terms with a decade that had already brought it The Beatles, offshore broadcasting – remember radio stations 270, Caroline, London, City, Scotland, 390, etc? – the Profumo Affair and the Torrey Canyon disaster. It was also an era when Gibraltar, which had been British for more than 250 years, faced increasing pressure from the Spanish fascist leader, General Francisco Franco, who had closed the land border with its tiny southern neighbour in 1967.

Eager to reassure the Gibraltarians about their long-term future, the British Government mulled over several confidence-building possibilities, including the option of awarding the colony the status of a so-called “royal city” and twinning it with a leading UK municipality.

The Rock’s leader, Sir Joshua Hassan, and his senior colleagues applauded the idea, believing such an initiative would satisfy their desire for a “special and unique” title. Unfortunately, Sir Joshua had not been aware at the time that twinning arrangements were nothing new – there were already about 400 in Britain alone - and proposals to “find” an appropriate partner, such as London, Plymouth and Portsmouth, were soon scuppered.

It was then that Goole’s name came into the picture, principally because of its MP’s already-close ties with the Rock.

Goole soon gained its Gibraltar Court, opposite the leisure centre, while the colony – as you’ll see from my photographs – was blessed with George Jeger House and Goole House.

And the rest, as they say, is history...

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The Editor writes:

Despite the confidential memorandums of Sir Arthur Goldsworthy and A.P. Cumming-Bruce indicating that Goole was never twinned with Gibraltar the fact is that the twinning did take place. This raises the question, which will never be answered, just how could the Foreign and Commonwealth Office be so wrong about what was really a simple matter?

George Jeger, together with Norman Dodds, were in the first half of the sixties regarded as being Gibraltar's own MPs. This was long before the sophisticated lobbying which exists today. George, the Labour MP for Goole, was a close friend of Sir Joshua Hassan and so when the political cry in Gibraltar became 'British we are, British we stay' they put their heads together and came up with the idea of twinning the town and the city. This duly came about and apart from the usual exchange of civic visits was uniquely marked when Horace Zammit swam across the River Ouse: the only Minister ever to make such a swim.

Sir Joshua decided to mark the twinning by naming one block of flats after Goole and another after George Jeger.

Then came the 1969 election which resulted in Bob Peliza, as he was then, becoming Chief Minister of the IWPB Government.

Sir Robert has confirmed that Gibraltar and Goole were twinned. He saw that the naming of the two blocks of flats would draw attention to the coming together of Gibraltar and the United Kingdom and so he implemented the recommendation of Sir Joshua Hassan – a rare example of the politicians being in agreement.

Brian Robertson, Town Clerk of Goole Town Council, is trying to find out why the twinning slowly slipped away to be forgotten by most in Gibraltar and in Goole. One explanation for the slippage in Goole is due to two changes in local government structure. In 1974 Boothferry Borough Council took over the functions of the former Goole Borough Council and this was followed by the formation of the East Riding of Yorkshire Council. This took over the functions of the Boothferry Borough Council.

Once this has all been sorted out it might be possible to resurrect the twinning. John Pole, the editor of The Goole Times, is of the opinion that the idea of activating the twinning is not dead and if there is interest an approach should be made from Gibraltar.

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THE TWINNING OF GIBRALTAR WITH GOOLE

Gibraltar was twinned with Goole but due to the chaos caused by two local government re-organisations all the papers have been lost or shredded. Thus Gibraltar and Goole are no longer twinned. However Gibraltar Court in Goole will not be renamed and will be a reminder of the years when Gibraltar and Goole were twinned.

As well as Sir Robert Peliza remembering the twinning, Albert Poggio recalls that as Chairman of the Gibraltar Group he was asked by Sir Joshua Hassan to represent him at an official twinning ceremony. This was followed by the Gibraltar Group hosting a reception at the Sol Arms in Euston in honour of the Mayor of Goole. This was attended by Ministers Freddie Gache and Lloyd Devincenzi.

On the 21 August 1969 The Gibraltar Chronicle reported under the headline 'Goole to Gib by Guy', the first STD call between Gibraltar and Goole.

'Guy Stagnetto performed his last act as deputy mayor of Gibraltar when he accepted the first call on STD from the Mayor of Goole.

This breakthrough in telecommunications to the outposts of the Yorkshire moors was witnessed by a large crowd in Goole where the historic call was rebroadcast to large crowds waiting outside the Town Hall.

Deputy Mayor Of Gibraltar; 'I am delighted to receive this call on behalf of the City Council of Gibraltar. We are particularly pleased to be twinned to Goole which we hold in the highest esteem and with considerable affection'.

Mayor of Goole; 'Thank you for your kind remarks, Mr Deputy Mayor. We in Goole would like to know more about Gibraltar and one recent step in this direction is that your Town Clerk has made arrangements for the Gibraltar newspapers to be sent regularly

to Goole and these will be displayed in our Public Library for Goole people to read. We, in turn, are making arrangements for a copy of the Goole Times to be sent to the Mackintosh Library each week’.

Guy Stagnetto; ‘I will take immediate steps upon my return to Gibraltar to arrange to have the Goole Times displayed in the John Mackintosh Hall’.

Mayor of Goole; ‘As you are in the Gibraltar Tourist Office you will have heard that they are going to mount an exhibition next month in our Public Library. We are very anxious to learn as much as we can about Gibraltar and look forward to seeing it’.

Guy; ‘I am delighted to learn about this exhibition and will arrange for both information and exhibits to be sent from Gibraltar’.

Mayor; ‘Please send my respects to the Mayor of Gibraltar; I have heard a great deal about Gibraltar from Mr and Mrs George Jeger and Mr and Mrs Atkinson’.

Guy; ‘On behalf of the Mayor I would like to thank you for your good wishes. We in Gibraltar look forward to many more visits from the people of Goole’.

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DESMOND de SILVA QC

Desmond de Silva was on the Rock to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the granting of the Supreme Court Charter.

He is only member of the Gibraltar Bar who has the rank of Under Secretary of State of the United Nations.

Desmond has been elected a Fellow of St Anthony’s College, Oxford.

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PEPE ‘GIBRALTAR JOE’ FORBES

Pepe, who is Gibraltar’s Mr Boxing, will attend the 43rd annual convention of the World Boxing Council in La Linea.

The Boxing News recently reported that; ‘The World Boxing Council has appointed Wayne McCullough a World Ambassador for Peace and Goodwill at their annual convention in Gibraltar, Spain from October 2-8’.

Pepe wrote this stinging letter. ‘With all due respect I would like to make a correction concerning the WBC Convention which appeared in Boxing News. The convention takes place in the Spanish town of La Linea de la Concepcion, which borders Gibraltar and not in Gibraltar as stated.

Gibraltar has been British for 301 years (and still going strong) and I am a British Gibraltar and proud of it’.

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ADMIRAL SIR HUGO WHITE

Sir Hugo is making a significant recovery. The August issue of Navy News reports thus;

‘Many at the International Festival of the Sea took the chance to make new friends, but some managed to renew old acquaintances

The Pakistani warship ‘Tippu Sultan’, formerly British Type 21 frigate HMS Avenger took part in the Fleet Review and subsequent festivities in Portsmouth Naval Base.

Nine former Type 21 Cos – five who drove ‘Avenger’ - were hosted on board by the Pakistan Naval Attache to London.

The Type 21 Cos were the ‘boy racers of the Fleet’ between 1975 and 1995 – the nippy frigates were a joy to drive and proved surprisingly adept at towing waterskiers.

But despite the smiles it was a poignant occasion, especially in the case of former Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, Admiral Sir Hugo White, who drove ‘Avenger’ during the Falklands Conflict as squadron commander of the 4th Frigate Squadron.

Admiral White, later Governor of Gibraltar, was seriously injured in a fall at home on Boxing day 2002, fracturing his skull so badly that he was given no chance of survival.

But a neurosurgeon felt that with radical surgery there was a chance, and his life was saved.

He can now walk again, but much of Sir Hugo’s memory failed, and he has problems communicating; his wife Lady Jo White hopes a stimulus – perhaps re-visiting a familiar place – could trigger a train of recollections.

So Admiral White clambered up to the bridge of the ‘Tippu Sultan’ and out to the bridge roof with the others as they reminisced.’

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JOHN GAGGERO SENIOR

The 2005 edition of *Who's Who in Catholic Life* reveals that John Gaggero, commissioned in the X11 Royal Lancers in 1953, passed out first from the Mons Officer Cadet School and was awarded the Stick of Honour. John is the only Gibraltarian to be so honoured.

There are a considerable number of Gibraltarians in this Directory and if any Catholic FOGHS member, male or female, thinks he/she should be included than contact should be made with the Editor, Who's Who in the Catholic World, Gabriel Communications Ltd, First Floor, St James's Building, Oxford Street, Manchester M1 6FP.

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PETER HAIN

It is not widely known that Peter Hain has a share in a small property near Malaga. This explains his perma tan .

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MICHAEL BRUZON

Michael Bruzon has been the artist in residence at Brentford Football Club for the past twelve months. Club Chief Executive, Andrew Finch, explains: " A specially commissioned exhibition can be seen at Watermans to celebrate 100 years of playing at Griffin Park.. It is a visual tribute to the wonderful variety of people that comprise a Brentford match day. The season long project by Michael was a huge focal point for the Learning Zone, and a lot of people have taken considerable efforts to capture the many themes season of a match day that appeal to them. During the 2004/05 Centenary season Michael documented this historic season alongside the staff of Brentford FC, its Community Scheme and the Griffin Park Learning Zone. He photographed, recorded and painted images of the fans and the team at its home and away fixtures to present a snap shot of the club at this current moment in its history".

Michael said: "As a supporter I had my own personal experiences but that is from one point of view. You think of a football crowd as one sort of solid mass but it is made up of individuals. I was keen to find out what these individuals are getting from the club and the game."

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£2M FOR UPPER ROCK 3 YEAR PROGRAMME GETS UNDERWAY

By Alice Mascarenhas

Around £2 million will be spent by the Government over the next three years to improve the Upper Rock Nature Reserve. Gibraltar Tourist Board has put into motion the three-year programme announced during the Budget Session of the House of Assembly by Tourism Minister Joe Holliday which will upgrade both the present sites and see the introduction of new attractions.

Joe Holliday yesterday morning toured the various sites looking to see how some of the proposals are going to be integrated into the new visitor experience of this major tourist attraction which attracts some 750,000 visitors a year. The main works will begin after the summer.

Mr Holliday was keen to point out that this was just phase one of the project for which £650,000 had already been allocated for major improvements in this area in this financial year. In its initial stages the project will enhance some of the already popular sites. The Minister toured St Michael's Cave, the Apes Den, Princess Caroline's Battery, the new Rock and Fortress experience. He was presented with a general view of all the sites to see how the project was coming along and what would develop. Mr Holliday confirmed that the much needed enhancements of both Royal Anglian Way and Mediterranean Steps would be a part of this project. However, neither of these will be tackled in the first year. Signage, railings and much needed toilet facilities will be included in this first phase. A new apes den site will also be developed. Situated at Trovey Battery half way between the current apes den and Princess Caroline's Battery the aim is to relocate some of the ape packs to this area to enhance their quality of life.

Mr Holiday said this would change the concept of how we view the apes today with less interaction with the visitor in this area.

One of the main reasons for doing this is because visitors continue feed the apes despite the warnings.

"That is where the future lies, we cannot continue to allow visitors to integrate with these animals at the levels they always have because it is not good for the animals."

Mr Holliday said GONHS would continue to be involved with the apes project and given its own advise and had its own input on how to create a new and better experience all round and at the same time improve the quality of life of the animals.

"The improvements are for the well being of the apes which is paramount. And to also ensure the visitor enjoys the experience more," assured Mr Holliday who also insisted the three year investment programme of this area was to ensure Gibraltar kept on upgrading this area, and also bringing it into line with visitor expectation.

"It is our main tourist attraction and we have to do the very best we can," he added.

"The feedback we get from the visitors generally is very favourable. People enjoy the experience as it is now and it is one they look forward to," he said.

The investment has been possible following the increase in the entrance ticket to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve as from April 12 this year.

"This will allow us more flexibility and to be able to invest in the product further," he added.

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GIBRALTAR, 300 YEARS

New book, available from The Gibraltar Bookshop.

GIBRALTAR, 300 YEARS is a collective work, published by the University of Cadiz conceived on the basis of looking ahead realistically towards the future of Gibraltar. The book considers Gibraltar as a "symbol and inexhaustible source of problems and cooperation, evocative of profound feelings, whose perspectives of solution are opened and reframed continuously (negotiations on co-sovereignty in 2001-2002, new tripartite forum of dialogue from 2004)".

This book contains contributions written in Spanish and in English. The Editors of the book are Alejandro del Valle, Professor (Catedrático) of International Law and European Commission Chair on EU Law, and Inmaculada González, Assistant Lecturer of International Law, both of them from the Cadiz University.

They explain that the aim of the publication is to offer a wide set of approaches concerning the Gibraltar issue, through a free-opinion academic approach.

The Book is mainly the fruit of the Courses organized jointly by the University of Cadiz and the Ayuntamiento of San Roque, in 2002 editions (Gibraltar - approaching the end of the controversy?), of 2003 (The Transborder relations between Gibraltar and the Campo), and of 2004 (Gibraltar, 300 years: presents and futures). The book offers different analyses and points of view from the best Spanish academics and specialists of the subject of Gibraltar, as well as of the main actors and representatives of Gibraltar and the Campo. The collective work includes the newness to offer the Gibraltarian perspective (Caruana, Montegriffo, Bossano, Seruya, Searle, Triay, Golt). The book contains studies and analysis of the great questions that turn around the controversy, the sovereignty, the status of Gibraltar, the neighbourly relations and the crossborder cooperation. A final part gathers main texts, documents and maps on Gibraltar.

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PALM TREE RESCUED FROM DEMOLITION WORKS

A five metre tall Date Palm has been rescued by the Botanic Gardens from the demolition of the old generating station.

In an exercise funded by the developer of the site, with the co-operation of the Environment Ministry, the large tree was transferred to its new location on Wednesday afternoon in an operation that involved heavy digging and lifting equipment and three hours work.

A spokesman for the gardens said: "The palm tree had been growing in a planter next to a building in the courtyard of the generating station below Line Wall Road. Its new location is near the Wellington Memorial in the Alameda Gardens, in a bed that is earmarked for further landscaping in the near future. Provided it takes - and the chances are good - it should develop to its full potential and become a feature at the southern end of the Alameda's Upper Walk. This adds to the Botanic Garden's increasing collection of palm trees of different species, and becomes the largest Date Palm in this collection."

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DPC REJECTS FUNICULAR EXTENSION REQUEST

The Development and Planning Commission has rejected a request from 21st Century Rock, the company behind the funicular project, for an extension to the period within which it can appeal an earlier decision refusing outline planning permission for the project. At the end of last month, the DPC sent a damning refusal notice to 21st Century Rock that left doubt the commission's members were fundamentally opposed to the scheme.

The objections focused mainly on environmental and heritage issues, though safety concerns were also raised.

The developer had 28 days from receipt of the formal notice to appeal the DPC's decision, but the company asked for more time to consider its position.

Well-placed sources said yesterday that the DPC had turned down that latest application for an extended deadline.

The formal 28-day cut-off date expired at the beginning of this week and 21st Century Rock had still not filed an appeal.

The company could nonetheless re-submit its application from scratch if it wishes to proceed with the funicular project.

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DPC SCRUTINISES ELIOTT'S TOWER

The plans submitted by the O'Callaghan Hotel Group for a 28-floor, 95-metre high annexe to the existing hotel were under scrutiny yesterday by the Development and Planning Commission.

The Chronicle understands that a project of that height is likely to face DPC resistance although there are no indications that there have been many substantial objections from the public.

The extension would be over twice the height of the existing Elliott Hotel and more than three times the height of the nearby Gibraltar Heights building. Artist impressions submitted by the O'Callaghan group as part of an application for outline planning permission filed with the Office of the Town Planner show a visually arresting, modern building that soars over its setting.

Yesterday the Commission considered the submissions from architects and developers and held initial discussions but the town planners will have to meet again with them and more discussions have to take place.

The annexe would be linked to the existing Elliott Hotel by a bridge at the level of the existing reception area, which would double as the main entrance to both. The plans, prepared by WCSA Architects and Planning Consultants, state that the aim is to provide a new architectural focal point for the area and build much-needed high-quality hotel business suites in the centre of town.

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STUNNING PAINTING DISCOVERED IN GORHAM'S SECRET CHAMBER

Archaeologists working deep inside Gorham's Cave have discovered a rare prehistoric painting, that could be up to 13,000 years old, of a deer. To the untrained eye it looks like a series of random scrawls on the cave wall.

But with the help of the experts, the outline of an animal crowned with a distinctive set of antlers quickly becomes clearly discernible.

The discovery of the painting follows the previous find of cave art in St Michael's Cave and highlights the wealth of archaeological remains in Gibraltar.

Alongside the painting, the archaeologists working in Gorham's Cave have also made important Neanderthal finds during the past two weeks.

"The surprises seem to come one after another each year," said Professor Clive Finlayson, director of the Gibraltar Museum and co-director of the excavation at Gorham's Cave.

"What we have now in Gibraltar are eight caves where we know there has been Neanderthal occupation."

"We also have a number of caves with occupation by modern people, of which at least two have cave art, which is of great heritage value in global terms."

"This makes Gibraltar one of those unique places for the study of prehistory and for this rich heritage."

“Certainly in terms of Neanderthal occupation sites, for a peninsula this size to have eight is unique in the world.”

“There is no other place like that,” he concluded.

Of the recent discoveries at Gorham’s Cave, the cave painting of the deer is perhaps the most significant.

From its style, the experts working in the cave can tell that it is an Upper Paleolithic painting from the Magdalenian period, making it approximately 12,000 to 13,000 years old.

“It is extremely unique,” Professor Finlayson said.

“In the south of the Iberian peninsula it is probably the second one,” he added, explaining that similar artwork is common only in the south of France and, to a lesser extent, northern Spain.

That could suggest a link between prehistoric communities there and those in this region, who perhaps were sheltering in southern Iberia during a glacial period.

“This is a really major find and there may well be more in there,” he said.

Aside from these broader lines of enquiry stretching halfway across Europe, the paintings are helping experts build a clearer picture of what life was like in Gibraltar thousands of years ago.

“Both this find and the one in St Michael’s Cave help to fill in details of the life of our hunter-gatherer ancestors who lived on the Rock,” said Maria Dolores Simón, an archaeologist from the Fundación Cueva de Nerja who is closely involved in the excavations in Gibraltar.

The painting is just one of a series of important discoveries made by archaeologists working in Gorham’s Cave as part of an excavation programme that has been running annually since 1991.

They have been working on two distinct levels of sediment deep inside the cave, a ‘modern’ one dating back no more than 20,000 years, and a Neanderthal one that dates back at least 30,000 years.

Within the ‘modern’, Upper Paleolithic level, one of the most interesting finds this year has been the discovery of a complete hearth – “a barbecue if you like”, Professor Finlayson said – that prehistoric people were using to cook food as part of life inside the cave. The fireplace is believed to be anywhere between 16,000 and 20,000 years old.

But the researchers also found a very large hearth in the Neanderthal level. They are still waiting to have this find dated, but already it is being described as significant.

“We can show that not only were these modern people living and cooking inside the cave, but we have an incredibly large Neanderthal hearth,” Professor Finlayson said.

From the clues in the cave, researchers are starting to draw initial conclusions.

The Neanderthals did not survive in this part of the world more recently than 30,000 years ago, but the oldest human remains date back to around 20,000 years ago.

“What this means is that, at least in this cave, Neanderthals and modern humans never met,” Professor Finlayson said.

“Therefore in this cave we can very definitely say that the modern people, contrary to what the general belief is, did not cause the extinction of the Neanderthals.”

“Now I’m not going to generalise this beyond that case, but the fact that we can question it in one cave questions the globality of that principle.”

Tests are now being carried out on remains found in both hearths.

The results will give researchers an idea of the kind of plants and wood used in the fires, and by extension a better understanding of the flora during both periods.

Excavation work in the cave continues until September 22.

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BRITISH AIRWAYS CHIEF CALLS ON THE CHRONICLE

British Airways head Sir Rod Eddington was in Gibraltar yesterday at the invitation of GB Airways president Joe Gaggero.

Sir Rod, who is retiring from BA this month but who continues as a director of Rupert Murdoch’s News Corporation, came to see the first editions of the Gibraltar Chronicle and the unique copy of our famous ‘scoop’ on Nelson’s death and triumph at Trafalgar which will temporarily be on exhibition at the Casemates vault as from this week.

Sir Rod, a former Rhodes scholar, was born in Perth, and ran both Ansett Australia and Cathay Pacific before taking on BA.

He was knighted this year for his work in aviation.
He is currently preparing an assessment of British transport infrastructure for the British Government.

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Trafalgar, The Royal Naval in Gibraltar

A CHRONICLE OF NAVAL HISTORY

By Alice Mascarenhas

A major exhibition commemorating 200 years of the Battle of Trafalgar and Gibraltar's relationship with the Royal Navy 'Sentinel of the Mediterranean – Gibraltar, the Navy & the Strait Maritime' was officially opened by the Chief Minister on Tuesday night at the Casemates Vaults.

The central piece of the exhibition is the Chronicle of the 24 October 1805, a major scoop for the Chronicle carrying the news of the victory of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of Admiral Lord Nelson eleven days before the news reached England. It was also its first special edition - Gibraltar Chronicle Extraordinary, which printed a copy of the report by Admiral Collingwood informing the Governor, General Fox, of the victory at Trafalgar. The copy is on loan from the Garrison Library.

Chief Minister Peter Caruana commented how pleased he was to see on display the copy of the Gibraltar Chronicle.

"To this day the Editor of the Chronicle, I have heard him boast abroad about the Chronicle's scoop, and I am glad to see that this hugely important part of Gibraltar's own heritage and history, this unique original copy announcing the victory at Trafalgar, this is an important piece of the heritage of the people of Gibraltar," he said.

The Chief Minister spoke of the enormous effect the Battle of Trafalgar had on the British Empire for the next 200 years, enabling Britain mastery of the seas and the building of the empire.

The exhibition he said was another sign of the huge spore of heritage and culture that the Gibraltar community enjoys in relation to the significant historical part has Gibraltar has played over the centuries.

"It is incredible that a place as small as Gibraltar has played such a huge role in the history of the affairs really of the planet because were it not for the presence of Gibraltar as an integral part of the British Empire so much of the British Empire might not have been possible," he further commented.

Mr Caruana paid tribute to the Museum team under Professor Clive Finlayson for the way in which the exhibition had been expanded so that Trafalgar becomes the origin of the rest of Gibraltar's naval history. The

exhibition housed in four rooms is the joint effort of the Gibraltar Museum, Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the Royal Navy. In the first room there is a floor plan highlighting the Battle of Trafalgar. This is where the Gibraltar Chronicle can be seen. The second room looks at the links after Trafalgar and the role Gibraltar played as a 'sentinel', and this is followed by Gibraltar's relationship with the fortress and the Royal Navy. The last room is an educational interactive area for children – and it is expected that the schools will visit the exhibition over the coming months. It also shows a series of incidents such as the Bedenham explosion graphically depicted through a series of photographs.

In declaring the exhibition officially open Mr Caruana said it was a great honour for Gibraltar to play a part of the Trafalgar commemorations.

On display too is a series of models of ships handmade by Manuel Durante who has built over 700 ships, aircraft and vehicles over 70 years. One late addition to the exhibition is a model of the Victory by Victor Cardona.

The exhibition will remain open until Saturday 5 November 2005. Monday to Friday 10am - 6.30pm. Saturday 10am - 2pm. Entrance is free.

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IRAQ MEDALS FOR GIB REGIMENT OFFICERS

Two members of the Gibraltar Regiment Major Colin Risso and Major John Perez have been awarded medals for their involvement in operations in the war in Iraq. In the case of Major Risso he was caught up in a fierce ten minute gun fight with the enemy and in "desperate" circumstances had to single-handedly defend a US convoy with two weapons.

Major John Perez was awarded the American Bronze Star Award and is the only British officer to have led a US Marine Corps unit in Iraq.

Every Royal Gibraltar Regiment soldier who deploys on operations is a volunteer.

A CBF statement said: "Major Colin Risso, Officer Commanding G Company, and Major John Perez second in Command of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment both received awards in yesterday's Operational Honours List for their presence of mind whilst serving on operations last year. Major Colin Risso has been awarded the Military Cross for the actions he took when his convoy came under attack in Afghanistan and Major John Perez has been awarded the American Bronze Star award for meritorious service on a high intensity combat zone on Operation Iraqi Freedom."

"Major Risso was serving as the Plans Officer in the Combined Joint Task Force in Bagram, Afghanistan when the convoy he was travelling in came under heavy attack in a narrow wadi. In an extract from his Military Cross citation:

"Despite the hail of small arms fire, including rounds coming into the rear where he was seated and the Rocket Propelled Grenade explosions around the vehicles, Major Risso identified the main threat from the right flank and immediately engaged the enemy with an M16 rifle, a weapon he was unfamiliar with. The HUMVEES (American vehicles) were unable to put down fire, their grenade launchers having jammed and putting down a rapid rate of fire Major Risso could sense the desperate situation. Running short of ammunition he also took the Colonel's M4 rifle to maintain a high rate of suppressive fire on the enemy positions. Using both weapons and stocks of ammunition in the vehicle he maintained this rate of fire expending over 150 rounds to allow the Colonel to gain control of the convoy and begin to co-ordinate its extraction."

"After the fierce firefight lasting 10 minutes, Major Risso assisted in the loading of casualties onto the medical evacuation helicopter and helped focus the remaining soldiers on defence from further attacks. Major Risso was awarded the Military Cross for operational gallantry."

"Major John Perez was awarded an American Bronze Star Award for his services whilst serving as a forward operator alongside American Forces in Iraq. He was the Officer Commanding a 300 strong Coalition Military Advisory Team in a training camp North of Baghdad under the constant threat of daily bombardment and hostile actions against the Coalition forces supporting the New Iraqi Army. His team consisted of British, American, Australian and Jordanian Forces. This involved training the new Iraqi Army to support coalition operations around Baghdad often under dangerous situations. Additionally, he remains the only British officer to have led a United States Marine Corps unit in Iraq. He was further responsible for setting up and tactical instruction of the Iraqi Intervention Force to fight alongside the US Marines within the Sunni Triangle around Baghdad. He conducted on the ground advice and evaluations to guide the Iraqi forces to success. The US Army have invited Major Perez to Washington to be presented his Bronze Star Award later this year in the presence of the United States Marine Corps. The Queen has granted him the unique privilege to wear his award, which was conferred to him by the President of the United States of America. Both awards are published in the Operational Honours List on Friday 09 Sep 05 and an announcement will be made in the London Gazette."

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WELSH GUARDS ON PARADE

The Welsh Guards are currently in Gibraltar for four weeks in order to take over duties from the Royal Gibraltar Regiment while they are away on Ex Jebel Sahara.

A CBF spokesman said: "The Welsh Guards will be completing tunnel warfare training as well as guarding military installations around the Rock. They will also be carrying out The Convent Guard Mount at midday on Saturday 17th."

Clean up campaign

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GIB CORONER SET TO PRESIDE CBF INQUEST

An inquest is due to start at the end of this month into the death of Commodore David White OBE, the former Commander British Forces in Gibraltar whose body was found in the pool at his luxurious home in Mount Barbary last January 8.

At the time of his death, Commodore White, 50, had been under investigation for allegedly downloading child pornography after being identified by Operation Ore, Britain's biggest

child pornography inquiry.

According to contemporary reports in the British press, Commodore White had been recalled back the UK to respond to the allegations just hours before he died.

Little detail has since emerged about the circumstances of his death, though foul play was apparently ruled out at an early stage.

A post mortem carried out in Gibraltar by a UK-based forensic pathologist concluded that Commodore White had drowned.

The inquest scheduled for later this month will take place in the Coroner's Court in Gibraltar and will formally establish the cause of death and the circumstances surrounding it.

At the time his body was discovered, police believed that Commodore White might have been the 33rd suspect in Operation Ore to commit suicide rather than face the disgrace of an investigation and possible prosecution.

Operation Ore closed in on suspects who had been identified through credit card details logged with a US-based pay-per-view website that hosted child pornography. Commodore White was one of several thousand Britons apparently identified in this way.

But since his death, serious flaws have been exposed in the investigation.

Many of the accused have argued that their credit card details could have been stolen, or that they accessed the site but only for adult pornographic material.

Commodore White's death shocked Gibraltar as a whole, and the military community in particular.

He was born in London in 1954. He was brought up in Kent, educated at Eton, and travelled the world for two years before joining the Royal Navy as a Seaman Officer in 1973.

He had a long and distinguished career, including a stint as an officer on board the Royal Yacht Britannia.

As a submariner he commanded HMS Torbay during the 1990 Gulf War. He was later Captain 2nd command of Trafalgar Class submarines in 2001 prior to his appointment as Gibraltar's Commander British Forces on May 7th, 2004.

Commodore White was single and lived alone at his Mount Barbary residence, Mount Road.

After his death, a low-key military send-off was held at the Naval Base before his body was repatriated to the UK.

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OCEAN VILLAGE BID TO EXPAND

Ocean Village Properties has submitted applications for outline planning permission to build two new tower blocks on the site of the BP petrol station in Waterport, next to Portland House.

The two buildings, the tallest of which is 59.8 metres high, will cost a total of £27 million to construct and will include residential and commercial premises.

The smaller of the two proposed blocks, a triangular 53.8 metre high structure, will be built at a cost of £10 million on a vacant site next to the BP station.

It includes plans for commercial premises on the ground floor with 60 two-bedroom apartments above.

The second, taller building also foresees construction of commercial premises with 112 flats above, of which 96 will be two-bedroom apartments and the remainder single-bedroom homes.

The second building, which will cost £17 million to construct, includes plans for basement parking with enough room for 28 cars and 11 motorbikes.

The applications for the two new blocks still have to be considered by the Development and Planning Commission.

They are both available for public inspection at the Office of the Town Planner in Europort. Ocean Village Properties is already developing the nearby Ocean Village complex, which includes construction of luxury homes and a marina on the site of the old Sheppard's Marina.

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THE BILL: 175 YEARS ON THE RECORD

The Royal Gibraltar Police social club was the setting for the presentation of a concise and well illustrated book on the history of the force in Gibraltar this week. Coinciding with the 175 anniversary Cecelia Baldachino and Tito Benady co-authored the book which is now on sale.

In presenting the book Chief Minister Peter Caruana, in the presence of the Governor Sir Francis Richards, the Commissioner Joe Ullger and many current and retired officers, highlighted how highly respected the police force is in the community and the importance of such a book that records Gibraltar's civilian history.

Mr Caruana described that many, but not enough books, were now being written that record the transition from military to civilian rule of which the local police force was an important early example. In a classic example of dry humour Mr Caruana noted that – in terms of the continued relationship between the Governor, and the Police - “some things never change.”

Mr Caruana recognised the vast improvements to the force from a small, ill-equipped force to the well equipped, modern force of today. Gibraltar, he said, has depended on so much good work of the RGP and this book had been able to reduce that to writing.

Mrs Baldachino noted that in her research she had realised how the people of Gibraltar had generally been good citizens and that most often the arrests had been for getting drunk, singing and playing the guitar. Policing had faced the difficulty of a small community where people are often family or friends and yet this had been done fairly.

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CLEANING UP GIBRALTAR

The British military community on the Rock carried out cleanups in various sites around Gibraltar on Friday ahead of a major local effort at the weekend as part of the 'Clean up the World' campaign.

A 25-strong team from Headquarters British Forces, the Joint Provost and Security Unit and the Joint Administration Office are pictured hard at work in Europa Point.

Alongside numerous sacks of litter, they collected various large household items including a mattress and a fridge.

Other Ministry of Defence personnel were at work at various military sites.

RAF personnel cleaned the safety barriers around the airfield, while others from the Joint Logistics Unit worked around the area of the Naval Base and the South Mole and a team from the Defence Communications Service Agency cleaned in the area of Middle Hill.

Military personnel, including families, continued their efforts in the area of Buffadero over the weekend.

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NEW BOOK RECORDS 300 YEARS OF GIB'S JEWS

An authoritative and colourful account of the three hundred years of the Jewish community in Gibraltar has been published in a special edition of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal. The book was funded by SM Seruya and edited by Isaac Hassan with Tito Benady.

Sol Seruya presented the book to Heritage Trust chairman Joe Ballentine at an informal presentation at the new Guard House premises off the Piazza where the trust is now based. Mr Seruya said that he had felt a need to have some account written of the Jewish presence on the Rock and paid tribute to the "beautiful" fact that Jews feel an integral part of Gibraltarian life and that all faiths accept each other here.

Mr Seruya also expressed an historical gratitude to Britain for having allowed the Jews to live in Gibraltar and protecting their human rights.

But he also noted that although Spain had expelled the Sephardic Jews in 1492 the Jewish community had nonetheless not borne a grudge against Spain and had produced some artists and scholars who had links with Spanish academic and cultural life.

A Survey of the Synagogues is also being produced but, although ready, it is awaiting funding for publication.

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KINGS BASTION CLEARED

A huge arena has been cleared in the centre of King's Bastion where modern office blocks and stores had been built leaving the area much in its original form.

This comes ahead of Government formally announcing the building of the leisure centre and the demolition of the old Generating Station as part of the agreement for a development project in the Naval Ground.

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THAI AMBASSADOR CALLS ON DEPUTY CM

Thailand's Ambassador to London Vikrom Koopirochana yesterday paid a courtesy call on Deputy Chief Minister Joe Holliday at the DTI offices at Europort. Mr Koopirochana was on a familiarisation visit meeting local consular officer Mark Porral. Meanwhile the Ambassador said he would like to use the opportunity to thank Gibraltar for its great generosity to the tsunami appeal.

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BEAUTIFICATION SCHEME ANNOUNCED

Gibraltar Government has announced the commencement of a major scheme for the beautification and refurbishment of Chatham Counterguard, Orange and Montagu Bastions, Fish Market road, Market Place and the Public Market.

Phase One of this major new road and urban renewal scheme that encompasses the area from Regal House to the car park in Fish Market Road was put out to tender yesterday, a Government spokesman said.

He continued: 'Phase One involved the following: (1) Demolishing all buildings within Chatham Counterguard (previously occupied by Gibmaroc); (2) Creating a new road through Chatham Counterguard to link Reclamation Road to Fish Market Road. This will provide an alternative route to the northern areas of Gibraltar and thus decongest Queensway, Waterport Roundabout and Glacis Road; (3) Siting of a roundabout at the Irish Town end of Fish Market Road; (4) Reconfiguration and provision of more parking spaces at Fish Market Car Park; (5) General street refurbishment, beautification, re-furnishing and landscaping.

Later Phases of the Scheme will include:- Fish Market Road from Ocean Heights to the Public market (including the refurbishment of the Public Market) – Market Place (Plaza del Reloj) – Recovery of Orange Bastion at both Irish Town and Line Wall Road. Phase One is expected to complete by July 2006

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OCTOBER

MOUNT ALVERNIA: 'A HOME FROM HOME'

Chief Minister Peter Caruana and Minister for Social Services Yvette del Agua officially inaugurated the newly refurbished premises of Mount Alvernia on Thursday night.

The works at Mount Alvernia have cost an estimated £3.5million, with the Trustees of the John Mackintosh Trust (represented on the night by Philip Barton) contributing £1.5million to the project. The number of staff has almost doubled, as has the bed capacity, and several new areas have been created throughout Mount Alvernia for the rest and relaxation of the residents.

Also present at the inauguration were Director of Mount Alvernia, Carmen Maskill and the Bishop, Monsignor Charles Caruana.

Peter Caruana was the first to address the assembled guests, calling the official inauguration of the home 'an important event' and thanking all those who had put time and effort into the project. He said the opening marked "a watershed in this community's commitment to the way we look after our senior citizens when they can no longer look after themselves". The Chief Minister made brief reference to the state of affairs at Mount Alvernia before it was taken over by the Elderly Care Agency, expressing that while he did not wish to be critical about how things were done in the past which "may have reflected social circumstances in Gibraltar at the time", it was important that everyone agreed that "in an economically prosperous community, which is what Gibraltar is, it is important that we invest a share of the economic wealth that we create in our social services." He called Gibraltar's social services the 'Cinderella' of public services investment, and referred to Mount Alvernia as an important first project in the further investment in social services. Mr Caruana also addressed the recent criticism of increasing growth in public expenditure, claiming that most of the growth in spending by the Government "was out of the Government's control because it was inflation driven"; but that investing in this particular project was a conscious choice which the Government had made. He vowed to continue with Government plans to modernise Gibraltar's social services, and added that those in business in Gibraltar who benefited financially from the community should also "be willing to contribute to make social provision for that community as well".

The Chief Minister concluded by affirming that Mount Alvernia was "a modern, loving, caring residential facility and it is no longer an institution. It is a home from home"

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REPLICA OF OUR LADY OF EUROPE STATUE WILL BE ENTHRONED IN BALLYMENA

by Alice Mascarenhas

A group of around 50 persons leaves for Northern Ireland today to visit the camps in Ballymena where many Gibraltarians were in residence during the evacuation in World War II. Led by the Bishop of Gibraltar Charles Caruana the group will present a replica of the Statue of Our Lady of Europe to the All Saints Church in Ballymena. Also travelling with the group is Father Charlie Azopardi.

Bishop Caruana told the Chronicle the presentation of the statue was in gratitude of the warmth shown by the people of Ballymena to the Gibraltarian evacuees in a time of

hardship during the war.

Bishop Caruana who was an evacuee in Ballymena himself recalling the camps with affection.

"I was in camp 16 and I remember the people there very well. Despite the awful the awful solitary conditions in which we lived, away from everyone, the weather was cold, very often we were without fuel for heat, those of use who lived through those years hold very fond memories of Ballymena and the people," he said.

The enthronement ceremony will take place tomorrow at 6pm. Tomorrow the group will also attend a reception hosted by the Lord Mayor of Ballymena.

Last year, a group of Gibraltarians headed by Bishop Charles Caruana visited Madeira, where the statue was enthroned in the Cathedral of Funchal and is now housed in St Peter's Church in Funchal.

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RAC hotels 2005-2006 awards

ROCK HOTEL TAKES A WHITE RIBBON

Motoring organisation RAC, which has been recommending accommodation to its own members and other travellers for more than a hundred years, has included a Gibraltar hotel amongst the latest winners of its annual awards, made to hotels and bed and breakfasts that go beyond its already exacting standards.

Among the winners of the RAC White Ribbon for 2005-2006 is the 4-star rated The Rock Hotel in Europa Road, Gibraltar.

"The Rock Hotel is doing the Gibraltar hospitality industry proud", says RAC Hotels Business Manager Linda Astbury.

"Anyone choosing to stay there will enjoy a great experience. Like all RAC award winning properties

it is the perfect choice for a really memorable stay.”

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Affordable housing schemes

GOVT ANNOUNCES THREE MORE PROJECTS – 900 HOMES

Chief Minister Peter Caruana yesterday announced the construction of a further 900 “affordable homes for sale” in three different projects in the south district. The developments will be carried out by OEM International Ltd and are set for completion by March 2008.

The Government will receive £15m from the developers which includes a £1m donation to build a swimming pool for the elderly. It is estimated that the developer will be investing in excess of £60m on the affordable housing phase.

Mr Caruana said the prices for the flats will be “a little higher than Waterport Terrace.”

A Gibraltar Government spokesman said: “The Government and OEM (International) Limited are pleased to announce developments on three sites that will provide up to 900 affordable apartments for sale to local buyers.”

“Up to 200 flats will be built at the site of the old Rosia Tanks (just South of Rosia Plaza) to be known as Nelson’s View; up to 200 flats will be built at the site of the ex-Cumberland Building in Cumberland Road to be known as Cumberland Terraces; and up to 500 flats will be built at North Gorge to be known as North Gorge. The Nelson’s View and Cumberland Terraces developments will be ready by September 2007, and the North Gorge Development by March 2008.” the latest light steel frame construction in widespread use in the UK and the USA. Sale prices will be fixed in agreement with the Government and will be of the same order as Waterport Terraces but a little higher. The Government will specify the eligible purchasers and supervise and participate in the allocation process to ensure that properties are sold to established residents of Gibraltar.”

“The sizes and room configuration of the flats will be decided after the Waterport Terraces flats are allocated to ensure that unsatisfied demand at Waterport Terraces will be met by these developments.”

“In addition the developer will be permitted to develop up to 100 high value properties at Buena Vista and to convert the Buena Vista Stone block (presently used as a hostel) into an apart-hotel.”

Workers mostly Moroccan immigrants, will be relocated into a new, model hostel that will be built by Government on Rosia Road (site of ex-Tower building). It will also accommodate

those from the Devil’s Tower Hostel. Mr Caruana described this as a vastly improved facility in relation to the “ramshackle accommodation” afforded to immigrant workers in the past.

The Government spokesman added: “These three further quality, affordable housing schemes, added to the 396 flats at Waterport Terraces, will provide up to 1300 (depending on size and configuration) during the next two years or so. Around 1200 applications were received for Waterport Terraces, so that is probably a fair indication of the level of demand that presently exists. The Government will however continue to work on further housing projects both for rental and to satisfy the next wave of demand for home ownership.”

Hon Secretary: Maggie Galliano

Board Members: John Borda (Webmaster): Andrew Lavarello: Albert Poggio:

Ernest Reading (Social): Paul Baker: Tito Benady: Mike Brufal (Newsletter): Christina Gaggero: Major-General Simon Pack: David Inker (Hon Treasurer and Hon Membership Secretary): Janet Whiteley.

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CADOGAN HOLIDAYS are pleased to offer all members of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society and their families a 15% discount. If you wish to receive a brochure or make a booking, then please telephone Alison Collins on 02380 828 401 or e-mail her to this address:

Alison.Collins@cadogan-soton.co.uk

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