

FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER NO 81

OCTOBER 2007



Field Marshal Sir John Chapple hands over the chairmanship to Sir Francis Richards.

The Society would like to thank Sir John Chapple for the three years he has served as Chairman. In spite of an extremely onerous charity workload – he serves on innumerable committees and trusts – he gamely undertook the chairmanship of FOGHS. He has been a dedicated chairman, attending all functions and bringing his considerable expertise and influence to bear on the furtherance of the Society's objectives. He has worked tirelessly for Gibraltar and the Society would also like to thank Lady Chapple for her unswerving support.

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GIBRALTAR DAY

Gibraltar Day will be held on Monday 22nd October at The Guildhall in the City of London. Members who have changed address or who have not been invited in previous years should inform Albert Poggio or Clare Lerner by 31st July at The Gibraltar Government, London Office, 178-179 Strand, London WC2R 1EL Telephone 020 7836 0777 email info@gibraltar.gov.uk

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HERITAGE REPORT

GHT NEWSLETTER 2007

Introduction by the Chairman
David G Eveson

No one can underestimate the difficulties the Trust had to overcome in 2006, mainly as a result of the loss of the Rosia Tanks. Calls were made for the whole board to resign but as the Trust cannot dissolve itself, it left those remaining members of the Board in an unenviable position. Nevertheless, the Trust has continued to pursue the issues of Listing (including procedures and grading), the necessary consultation and meetings to discuss planning and development. The Government are in the process of creating new laws connected with Heritage and it is hoped that these requirements will be incorporated. The Trust also provides information and awareness of Gibraltar's history by promoting the restoration and beautification of memorials and plaques.

The Trust's Performance

Throughout 2006, as part of its educational role, the Trust arranged many site visits both at home and as far afield as Cape Trafalgar. Our annual painting competition was a great success with the theme of Cathedral Square. Our thanks must go to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society who sponsored the

prizes and to the Minister for Heritage, The Hon F Vinet, who kindly opened the exhibition and presented the prizes in Casemates Vaults Exhibition Hall.

The annual Heritage Awards once again were very popular and the Trustees had great difficulties in choosing winners. In the end awards went to Albert Traverso and Ted Archer for their book 'Education in Gibraltar 1704 – 2004', BDO Fidecs for the restoration of the former premises of the Montagu Sea Bathing Pavilion, and the Junior Award went to Bayside School for their Siege Machine produced for the 3 Kings Cavalcade. A special merit award went to WO2 Pete Jackson for his conservation ideas and WW2 tunnel guide roles. Congratulations to all. This year's Award winners will be announced shortly.

The Heritage page has been produced on a regular basis, articles are informative and educational; all contributors deserve acknowledgement and appreciation goes to Trustee Isobel Ellul Hammond who co-ordinates, and to the Gibraltar Chronicle who publishes.

Again for 2007 the Trust produced a Heritage Calendar which has sold really well and has received many favourable comments locally and from abroad.

The Journal for 2006 (No 13) is still at the printers, the delay due unfortunately to a package having been lost in UK. We have a re-print of No. 2 which we again thank Gibtelecom for sponsoring.

Parsons Lodge Battery was open to the public for most of the year despite being a great financial burden to the Trust. We have spent nearly 20% of our reserves on the site. This drain has led the Board to look at ways of increasing the visitor numbers to make this historical site more viable. Suggestions were made to create a commercial licensed restaurant and tavern, but after extensive deliberations the Board did not consider this to be the best option. At present the Trust is in discussion with Government with the view of using the site as a field centre connected with the ongoing cave explorations. I would like to assure members that the integrity of the site is not being compromised and we are committed to it being kept open to the public. Indeed, we would like to see more efforts to attract visitors beyond Main Street and the normal Rock Tours. It would be good for 'Gibraltar plc' to entice more tourists to areas like the 100ton gun, museum and Parsons Lodge.

For some time now, the Trust has been in discussion with Government after receiving a request for the surrender of the lease on the Victualling Yard. The Trust has laid down conditions, which include that the building must be listed.

Throughout the summer, Territorial Regiments visited for the annual Marble Tor exercises. Some did Heritage Trust inspired community jobs. Parsons Lodge Battery as usual had a clean up. The railings around the Cross of Sacrifice were re-painted. Work was done by the Royal Artillery on the 5.25 inch anti-aircraft guns at Princess Royal Battery. The railway gully was cleaned by 37 Signal and the 100ton Gun was repainted the correct colour by the 101 Battalion REME Regiment. They did a sterling job which included repairs to a wooden staircase which had been broken for months. A big thank you goes out to David Seed (SO Protocol, HQBF) who co-ordinated all the projects.

I am pleased to announce that the Trust and the Friends have committed themselves to a £50.00 a month grant for the restoration of some of the damaged books in the Gibraltar section of the Garrison Library, which are used by many researchers and students.

My own pet project of having the red information plaques re-painted with financial assistance from the Tourist Board has also been undertaken. We still have work to do regarding the authenticity of the information, but at least visiting tourists can take a decent photograph.

I am very keen on upgrading plaques and monuments, a role that may not be continued by future chairpersons, who may prefer to concentrate on listing and policy matters. While I am involved with the Trust, I would like to continue in this important Heritage field. We have a couple of old projects that are in the process of being completed, viz the Marshman Murals in the Convent and the Sacred Heart School Chapel. The Trust is grateful to the Government for providing part of the funds for this latter project. Other possibilities are in the pipeline including a permanent tribute to the Royal Marines. We are in discussion with other parties on this idea.

The Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society are on a similar course to our own and communications have greatly improved. The Minister for Heritage, The Hon F Vinet, the Director of the Museum, Clive Finlayson, and myself joined the Autumn Board meeting of the Friends' council. Sir John Chapple restated his Board's sentiment that the Friends would still prefer to channel funds through the Trust. My own presentation at the Warwick seminar was exactly this and I hope to report soon that more funds are coming to Gibraltar to assist in improving our overall historic tourism product.

The Board appoints members to sit on the Development and Planning Commission and Heritage Action Committee. The Trust has presented to Government a list of buildings and sites that we feel should be added to appendix A or B of the Heritage Trust Ordinance. This list will be updated periodically as more sites in need of protection are identified.

Government Projects

The Heritage Trust Ordinance, which pre-dates the Ministry for Heritage and the Heritage Division, has had its power dissolved over the years. However, the Trust is the first port of call for members of the public. Depending on the matters raised, the Trust makes representations to bodies like HAC or DPC. If issues are urgent we contact heads of departments such as the Town Planner, the Director of the Museum or the Government's Heritage Projects Officer. All respond promptly. One example, the metal sign structure attached to Kings Bastion was a clear breach of the Ordinance. This was brought to the Trust's attention by a few members of the public. Because it is a Government led project, the Trust could only raise objections with the Government's Project Officer. However, the outcome was good for all. These signs, which are fixed to the mortar, will be removed when the Kings Bastion project is complete and the whole wall made good.

On the subject of Kings Bastion the Trust has been kept informed by Carl Viagas. We must congratulate him and the Government for giving a new lease of life to this very important fortification whilst keeping its original features. Purists would wish to keep the site as the original 1772 structure but we have to be realistic, and use our land to the good of Gibraltar. If this means using the inner court yard for a leisure activity, it is better than having the site demolished and new structures built.

Orange Bastion - this area is looking very interesting now, more city walls being beautified and revealed to the public. Congratulations to Carl. Hundreds of thousands of pounds have been spent on these. Funds the Trust could only dream of. But we can all be proud of the results.

The Trust was indeed disappointed with the reported withdrawal of the application for World Heritage Status for Gibraltar. Our organisation has not been consulted in the time that I have been involved. However, I understand that a possibility still exists to attempt to gain recognition of individual heritage sites; we await Government's comments and would appreciate an opportunity to assist if we can.

The Trust's own headquarters, the Main Guard building, already handed over to your charity is to be refurbished very soon. The Tender documents are currently being processed. We are waiting for a reply to our request for a lease. This would secure the offices of the Trust for future members, also giving us a mini exhibition room and possibly a retail outlet. We thank the Government for this.

People

We must thank all the Board Members that we lost during 2006, whatever their reasons for leaving. They all wished the Trust well and indeed are still assisting behind the scenes, especially Denis King who continues to be very active. Sam Benady, who had been with the Trust since 1992, decided to call it a day after the Trust's AGM but still supports the Trust in whatever way he can. He is a fount of knowledge in most aspects of our history and was one of the founders of the Gibraltar Heritage Journal to which he has contributed many articles over the years. More recently he has been instrumental in finding a qualified restorer for the damaged books in the Gibraltar section of the Garrison Library and he continues to co-ordinate the restorations as an ongoing project. Roy Clinton also left us after only one year but his contribution was most useful. We thank them all and wish them well.

The Trust must also recognise other individuals who assist in making the organisation function, viz John Murphy who is a source of great knowledge and assistance; Damian Sanchez who opens the Trafalgar Cemetery gates; Roy Potter who the Trust turns to for minor refurbishments; Paul Baker,

Richard Desoisa, John Frenedo, Richard Garcia, Freddie Gomez, Pepe Rosado and Tito Vallejo, just to mention a few. I also thank Carol, my own 'personal assistant' for her invaluable help especially with word processing.

Five new trustees have joined us - John Carreras, Manolo Galliano, Benjamin Marrache, Gil Podesta and George Russo. They have been proving themselves very valuable, meeting the Trust's challenges with refreshing enthusiasm.

The remaining Board members had many difficult decisions and increased work load due to low numbers. I thank them on behalf of the members and myself. Our Treasurer Roy Harding must have special thanks; the condition and promptness of his computations are surely the envy of many businesses in Gibraltar.

Our only employee, Brenda, like the rest of us, has been put under tremendous pressure and makes sure the Board and the Trust's functions are run efficiently, not an easy role, and we must thank her.

My own debt of gratitude is to my deputy Diane Sloma – the voice of the Trust in the Development and Planning Commission, a tower of strength and a relentless worker, who puts Gibraltar and the Trust first. The Board members and I owe her a big thank you.

Conclusion

During our conversations early in 2006, Diane and I shared our sentiments. We thought that if we could just keep going, enlist some new Trustees, sort out our role in society and get the financial resources, we could come out of a difficult situation as a stronger organisation. Well we now have our charter, new Board members and our finances will soon be greatly improved. The Government has agreed an increase in our annual subvention which we shall hopefully receive before the end of this month. Our membership now stands over the 500 mark, one of the biggest organisations of this type in Gibraltar; when you consider that family members are added to this number, this gives us a huge following. We hope we are serving you well.

Last but by no means least, many thanks to you, our members, for your support.



Proposed façade – by John Langdon

The Main Guard, John Mackintosh Square
(The premises of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust since 2001)

The Trust is pleased to announce that plans are now well in hand to repair the Trust's premises and it is grateful to the Gibraltar Government for its generous support for this project. The following are brief historical notes on this building, the oldest in the square.

The Main Guard: Historical Notes

By Sam Benady

It is not clear when the building was constructed. The first references to it date to the middle of the 18th century.

Dr Robert Poole visited Gibraltar in 1748 and stayed in a hotel on the "Parade", probably on the South junction with Main Street, where Griffiths Hotel was later situated:

"A little below my lodging is what is called the grand guard house, which is one of the neatest buildings in these parts, though it is but low, being but one storey high, which indeed is the common height for the buildings in the city... Before the guard house, a little upon the Parade, is the whipping post, where almost every day soldiers are brought to feel the scourge...."

In a plan of the parade made in 1750 by Thomas James (published in 1770) it is clearly visible, labelled "Main Guard Room," with soldiers mustered outside it.

It is depicted in the 1753 plan of the Town as "The Main Guard".

It was almost certainly severely damaged by the bombardment during the Great Siege, and the second storey was probably added when it was rebuilt. The two-storeyed building, with soldiers on guard, is shown in the Carter print of the Commercial Square (1830).

In the late 1860s, Henri Regnault, one of France's most promising painters, was a regular visitor to the Main Guard, whose officers he had befriended. He painted three pictures for them, and these hung in the building for many years. Eventually they were taken to the Museum, where they remain. When the building is repaired and redecorated, it is to be hoped that these paintings can be returned to their original home. Regnault returned to France to fight in the Franco-Prussian War, and was killed in the last battle. Two of his paintings can be seen in the Orsay Museum in Paris.

The 1885 Gibraltar Directory says:

The Main Guard, a plain Building, stands in the Commercial Square. On the ground floor are the Men's Guard Room and the cells... On the upper storey is the Officers' Room

It was still being used as a Guard House in 1896 (Gibraltar Directory). Kenyon, writing in 1911, refers to the Main Guard in the past tense; evidently it had by then ceased to be a Guard House. He mentions that the 'Black Hole' or punishment cells had been nearby, possibly under the Haven.

It was used as the City Fire Station between the wars.

Post WWII, it was used for a time as a public bath-house.

Throughout most of the 2nd half of the 20th century, it was the payment office for public utility bills.

It became the headquarters of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in February 2001.

By Joe Desoisa

The Keys of the City (An episode in the history of Gibraltar) - A novel by Sam G. Benady

This narrative derives from the consequences of religious intolerance and more specifically from the canker of anti-Semitism that has disfigured the veneer of European civilisation even to modern times.

Jews in Medieval Spain were confronted with a stark choice; either they abandon their ancient beliefs or face expulsion, often without time to gather their belongings together. But even if they did opt to convert to Christianity they continued to be persecuted, despised and stigmatised as conversos or, more insultingly, marranos; perhaps for generations after the original conversion.

It was against this desperate background that in 1474 a group of Conversos from Cordova were beguiled by an offer from the Duke of Medina Sidonia to sell them the right to live in peace in Gibraltar, which had finally been recaptured from the Moors in 1462. It has been truthfully written that the Duke 'sold his feigned humanity at an exorbitant price'. Predictably, wishing to prevent Gibraltar falling into the hands of the Spanish King, the Duke attacked the City in 1476 and expelled the Conversos.

The facts of this episode in the history of Gibraltar were contemporaneously recorded and were revisited and published by Diego Lamelas in 1976. In 1992 Sam himself translated and published Lamelas' book as 'The Sale of Gibraltar in 1474'.

What Sam has done in this later work, his first novel, is to convert the bare historical facts into an engaging tale of romance and tragedy by peopling it with convincing characters, in a manner that is truly captivating. At the end of the tale one ponders the fate, on which history is silent, of the cruelly cheated Conversos; did they fall victims to the Inquisition or did some of them, at least, escape to North Africa from whence their descendants returned to Gibraltar after its capture by the British in 1704?

This is a truly fascinating book which breathes life into the dusty archives of history. It paints a vivid picture of Spanish life during the final stages of the Reconquista and fires the imagination.

General Sir George Don

And the dawn of Gibraltarian identity - A biography by Sam G Benady

George Don was a general who won no great battles, but by the time he came to govern Gibraltar had proved himself an efficient military officer, an expert in fortifications and, perhaps most important of all, a fair, able and caring civil administrator.

When Don arrived in Gibraltar in October 1814 to take up his post as Lieutenant Governor he was unable to go ashore immediately because the town was in the grip of an outbreak of yellow fever. The Gibraltar of the first two decades of the nineteenth century was a most unsavoury place which had been variously described as 'a dungheap', a 'dark corner of the world' and 'a pest house'. The destruction caused during the Great Siege had not been repaired and, despite the town's vigorous commercial activity, it lacked proper sanitation, was overcrowded and subject to the ravages of disease.

During the seventeen years of his tenure of office as Lieutenant Governor, Don recast the Gibraltarian landscape and laid the foundations of the modern city it is today. His first priority was to provide adequate accommodation for the troops but soon he was directing his insatiable energies to slum clearance, improvements to public services and the reform of the legal system. Don's enduring monuments include St. Bernard's Hospital, the Alameda Gardens and the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

Arguably, however, Don's most valuable, if less tangible, contribution to Gibraltar life was the creation of a sense of pride in the community. He laboured to dissolve the barriers that existed between groups deriving from disparate origins, and helped forge a community whose distinct identity he was the first to recognise with the appellation 'Gibraltarian'.

In researching and writing this biography, Sam has paid a long-overdue tribute to a man of vision whose work fostered civic consciousness among the inhabitants of this small parcel of territory and transformed the original squalor of its environs into what one later observer was moved to describe as 'a delicious oriental garden'. This book is a must for anybody interested in Gibraltar's history.

BOOK REVIEWS (Section 2 of 2)

By Sam Benady

The Fortifications of Gibraltar 1068-1945 by Darren Fa and Clive Finlayson. Osprey Books, 2006.

This book, which is one of the latest to be issued by the well-known publishers of militaria, Osprey Books, immediately invites comparison with that comprehensive work on the fortifications of the Rock, *Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar* by Hughes and Migos. Although it is altogether a more modest work, it goes beyond that work in some ways, notably the first chapter, which deals with the fortifications of Moorish and Spanish Gibraltar, from 1068, when the first tower was ordered to be erected, to the capture of the Rock by the Prince of Hesse and Sir George Rooke in 1704.

The other striking features are the illustrations: With the resources of the Gibraltar Museum to draw upon, the prints and photographs reproduced, and the magnificent illustrations by Adam Hook, make this book a pleasure to leaf through. The text is easy to read, and provides a continuous narrative of the progress of fortifying Gibraltar over the centuries: This is a book to be read and enjoyed, while *Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar* is a reference work for consultation.

One minor quibble: Lt. Koehler's famous gun-carriage should surely be called a depression carriage, as Jackson has it, and not a 'depressing carriage,' – although it might have had the latter effect on the besiegers that it was aimed at!

All in all, a book for anyone interested in the often violent history of our home. Read it, and you will see how the phrase "Strong as the Rock of Gibraltar" has become proverbial.

Cabbages and Kings by Mary Chiappe HKB Press, 2006.

And now, as they used to say in Monty Python, for something entirely different. Indeed, the wonderful cover illustration is Pythonesque, with the magnificent Louis XIV (I think), holding one of those humble vegetables, while others are strewn casually at his feet. Or maybe it's Daliesque. Whatever it is, it begs you to take up the book and open it. And you won't regret it. Most of you will be no stranger to Mary's articles in the Gibraltar Chronicle every Friday: Witty, perceptive, often poignant, they are always fascinating reading.

Well, here is an anthology, selected by the author, of the best articles – those that you enjoyed and thought you would never see again, and those that you missed.. Here is Mary's view on world affairs, on current fads and fancies, on the lost days of her – our – youth, and, of course, the saga of her visit to India, which has since then led her to collect funds to help the underprivileged there. And there is much, much more – and I challenge you to read even a few pages without a tear in your eye or a chuckle escaping your lips, or maybe b



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The Gibraltar Heritage Trust Calendar for 2008 is now available. The pictures (watercolours) are from a collection known as the Allen Sketches and have been reproduced by courtesy of the Council of the National Army Museum, London. The price is the same as this year's - £4 for members and £5 for non-members – including an envelope. Postage to the UK is £2.75 Air Mail or £1.75 Surface Mail.

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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

This will take place on Wednesday 27 February in the Gibraltar Government office in the Strand at 1830. Further details including price and a booking form will be in the next issue. However please contact Ernie Reading to reserve a place - ernie@reading171.fsnet.co.uk

The Chairman will report on the Society's activities during the past twelve months and outline the plans for the future. There will be a question and answer session.

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FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL VISIT 2008

The 2008 visit will take place from Sunday 8 June to Sunday 15 June. At the time of writing the cost is not known however those wishing to join should register, without commitment, with Stephanie Cadogan on steph.cadogan@cadoganholidays.com and advise Brenda Brufal on lendinez@aol.com. The price rises as the months slip by so register an interest early.

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OBITUARIES:

The death has been announced of **John Sherlock**. The Society sends its condolences to all members of his family.

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The death has been announced of **Lord Bethell**. The Society send its condolences to all members of his family.

The Baroness Hooper, President, writes: 'Nicholas Bethell was a n inspiration to many people and a doughty champion of many causes, not least that of Gibraltar's status.

I was privileged to work with him in the European Parliament and later in the House of Lords. After the first direct elections to the European Parliament we both became members of the small cross-party group of British MEPs asked by the then Chief Minister, Sir Joshua Hassan, to represent Gibraltar's interests in the Parliament. That was also the start of the long campaign to secure for Gibraltarians the right to vote in the European Parliament Elections.

Lord Bethell led the group on a fact finding visit to Gibraltar in 1980 – my first visit. In 1985 he volunteered to be one of the two Peers to escort me on my introduction to the House of Lords and eventually, in 2001, he asked me to follow him as President of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, a role he had fulfilled dynamically since the inception of the Society.

His untimely death is a sad blow to his family and many friends. He will be greatly missed'

Peter Caruana said: 'Nick Bethell was one of the first and most passionately committed supporters of Gibraltar among British parliamentarians. He conduced many campaigns on behalf of Gibraltar in both the House of Lords and the European Parliament'.

From **The Times**

September 11, 2007

Lord Bethell

Conservative MEP, writer and linguist who championed European integration and human rights

As a Conservative MEP, Lord Bethell was for nearly three decades one of the more serious and vocal advocates of the practical benefits of European integration. Most notably, in the 1980s he led a high-profile campaign to use European law to force airlines to lower their prices, preparing the ground for today's era of low-cost competition.

While wary of the more grandiose of federalist dreams, Bethell believed that on issues such as free trade and free movement Europe brought great benefits to Britain. Although he struggled to convince many of his colleagues, he did help to persuade Tory MEPs that they were better off working with like-minded politicians from across the EU than as isolated critics.

Bethell also won respect as a campaigner for human rights in the Soviet bloc. He was a staunch advocate of those in the Soviet Union who had stood up against oppressive state power, such as Andrei Sakharov and Anatoli Sharansky. His earliest works included translations of dissident writers such as Solzhenitsyn, and he later became a shrewd commentator on Eastern Europe and Russia in books and numerous articles, including several for *The Times*.

Nicholas William Bethell was born in 1938 to the third son of the 1st Baron Bethell. The family's wealth was depleted by the war, and his childhood was comfortable rather than opulent.

He was educated at Harrow, and during his National Service between 1956 and 1958 he learnt Russian. He went up to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he studied Persian and Arabic.

He joined the staff of *The Times Literary Supplement* in 1962. Two years later he became a script editor for BBC radio drama, specialising in Russian books and plays. But when his 39-year-old cousin died in 1967, Bethell, not yet 30, suddenly found himself in the House of Lords.

After the 1970 general election brought the Conservatives to power, Bethell was appointed a whip in the Lords, becoming the youngest member of the Government. His literary career was also blossoming, and by this time he had already published a biography of the Polish Communist Wladyslaw Gomulka and translations of works by Slawomir Mrozek, Joseph Brodsky and Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.

As he later put it, all this was "too good to be true. Nemesis was bound to strike." *Private Eye* claimed in 1970 that Bethell had published his translation of Solzhenitsyn's *Cancer Ward* without the author's permission – and linked Bethell to elements within Soviet intelligence who might seek to use the publication as an excuse to prosecute and silence Solzhenitsyn.

Bethell dithered over whether to sue for libel, until his boss, Earl Jellicoe, told him: "You must now defend yourself, but you cannot do that from the dispatch box." Bethell duly resigned from the Government and eventually won the case.

He was puzzled when no invitation to return to Government was forthcoming. In 2002 papers released under the 30-year rule told him why – Jellicoe had encouraged him to resign because he feared Bethell could in fact be a security risk "in the sense that information, which he may pick up as a junior minister, could filter back to friends or contacts . . . against whom there is a legitimate question mark". Bethell said that Jellicoe had later apologised.

In 1999 Solzhenitsyn was to revive the claim that he had not authorised the translation – though he had happily collected royalties in the meantime and conceded that Bethell's translation was "not at all bad".

Despite this setback, Bethell was appointed to the Lords European Committee, and then in 1975 nominated by the Conservatives to the European Parliament, then still unelected. Quickly sensing the need for democratic input, he encouraged the Labour Government to push ahead with plans for direct elections. The first European elections were held in 1979 and Bethell was returned for London North West.

In the 1980s he set up the Freedom of the Skies campaign, accusing European airlines of operating a cartel in contravention of the Treaty of Rome, and launched legal actions against British Airways and the Belgian airline Sabena (despite being a member of its frequent-flyer club).

Although mounting costs forced him to call off the action, his campaign forced the EEC Commission to take up what was becoming a popular cause, so paving the way for deregulation and the rise of cheap flights.

This, Bethell, believed, was the sort of thing Europe was for (he also campaigned for freer movement across borders and defended the unpopular “European” passports on this basis). Europe was “essential to the most effective use of our British resources,” he wrote in 1993. “British commerce is now inextricably tied together with that of continental Europe and if there should be any serious breach between us, we would be the ones who came off worse.”

But if Europe needed power, Bethell firmly believed that a democratic parliament needed to be able to hold it to account. “Are we to let decisions on multinational European issues – trade, air transport, fishing and the transfrontier environment – be handled by the Brussels bureaucrats without any form of democratic control? If we are not, we must have a European Parliament of some sort,” he reasoned. The Parliament’s power should be used, he said, “to promote EC laws which help British industry and block or amend laws which do not.”

In defending the Parliament, he had to answer critics within his own party, including those such as Norman Tebbit who suggested in 1990 that MEPs were disloyal to Britain. Bethell riposted forcefully: “We want to usurp the powers not of MPs, but of the unelected Brussels civil servants.”

To do this he believed it was vital to make alliances with like-minded European politicians, and he was determined to join the centre-right Christian Democrat grouping in the Parliament (now the European People’s Party), which eventually happened in 1992 over objections from both sides.

Bethell used his role in the Parliament to boost his campaigns for the rights of dissidents from the Soviet bloc, which included founding the Sakharov prize for freedom of thought in honour of the Nobel Peace laureate Andrei Sakharov. He travelled repeatedly to the Soviet Union, and to Afghanistan and Poland. For him, the eventual fall of the Berlin wall was a victory for European values of peace and democracy.

Bethell continued to defend the rights of critics of Russia’s current regime, such as the media tycoon Vladimir Gusinsky and Alexander Litvinenko. **He also spoke out strongly in defence of Gibraltar’s right to self-determination, which he supported as president of Friends of Gibraltar’s Heritage, 1992–2001**, and against the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus, serving as chairman of Friends of Cyprus, 1981-2001. He was also a keen supporter of an elected House of Lords.

Bethell was defeated in his attempt to win reelection in 1994, blaming it on the unpopularity of John Major’s Government, but won back a seat in 1999. By this time, however, he had had Parkinson’s disease diagnosed, and worsening health forced him to retire in 2003. On leaving the European Parliament he was awarded the Schuman medal by the EPP.

Throughout his political career Bethell continued to write. *The Last Secret* (1974) recorded the fate of 50,000 Cossacks and other refugees from the Soviet Union who were forcibly repatriated by the Allies after the Second World War. Other books included an introduction to the Middle East, a history of the Cold War and a denunciation of bungled Western attempts to overthrow Enver Hoxha’s regime in Albania.

He wrote incisive analyses of Russian politics for *The Times*, and explained the Russian elections in *The Sun*. He was also a regular contributor to the *Evening Standard*.

Bethell married Cecilia Honeyman in 1964. They divorced in 1971 (she died in 1977). In 1992 he married Bryony Morgan, who survives him, along with their son and two sons from his first marriage. The elder, James, inherits the title.

Lord Bethell, politician and writer, was born on July 19, 1938. He died on September 8, 2007, aged 6

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WEBMASTER'S REPORT

Webmaster: www.foghs.org.uk-

Useful websites:

- www.chronicle.gi
- www.thegibraltarmagazine.com
- www.panorama.gi
- www.gibnews.net
- www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi
- www.cosqui.com
- www.gibfocus.gi
- www.gibraltar.gov.uk
- www.dotcom.gi/map

Gibraltar links:

<http://dmoz.org/Regional/Europe/Gibraltar/>

This is a human-edited directory, feel free to submit Gibraltar sites for inclusion, there is a form online for this purpose.

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PICILAVI

Janet Whiteley writes:

The Picalavi in July was unfortunately not so well attended as in previous years, mainly due to the dreadful summer weather we have been experiencing. Never the less, we were catered for most admirably by Reggie Norton and his wife, and other guests who braved the inclement weather to come along.

As ever Reggie was in great form as was the latest addition to the family his beautiful Labrador dog, who enjoyed all the attention lavished on her.

Reggie has kindly offered to speak on Climate Change at the FOGHS Seminar and Dinner 2008.

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HISTORIC INTERVIEW

LOUIS TRIAY QC talks to the Editor

LOUIS TRIAY Q.C.

Louis Triay, 78, is one of the most successful Gibraltarians of his generation. During the Second World War he was evacuated to Madeira where he passed his school certificate exams and then coached Gibraltarian pupils in maths. In the years after the War there were only two scholarships a year available to study in the Mother Country; one from the Government the other the John

Mackintosh Trust. Louis, a model pupil at the Christian Brothers Line Wall College, was the scholar of his year and chose the Government award. At the age of 17 he read law at University College, London University and at the age of 20 was called to the Bar at Middle Temple spending six months in chambers gaining experience before starting his career on the Rock when he set up Chambers in the family house at 290 Main Street.

When the business became too large to service from his home he moved to College Lane and in 1969 to Regal House and a couple of years ago to the large luxurious suite of offices in Town Range.

In 1952 National Service on the Rock was duly completed but not before being awarded the first Sir William Thomson Key for the most outstanding recruit of the intake. The competition was fierce as it included Peter Isola, Charlie Piccone, Edgar Lavarello and Reggie Norton.

In 1960 Gonzalez, the Sports Outfitters, sponsored the Sportsman of the Year Competition. It was won by Louis Triay. The Cup was presented by his eventual grand father in law and awarded by his future father in law. There was no nepotism as it was not until 1966 that he married Valerie Gonzalez.

They have a son, Louis Junior, a daughter, Sophie and five grandsons.

He took silk in the 1980s and as expansion was necessary enticed James Neish to move over from the Civil Service. This was a huge coup as James was being groomed to become the eventual head of the civil service.

Five years ago the practice was joined by the Chambers of Guy Stagnetto and two years ago the law firm of Denton Wilde Sapte was absorbed into the Gibraltar practice. Now Triay heads one of the largest and most successful law firms on the Rock.

Whenever Louis suggests to the younger partners, which include his son Louis Junior, that perhaps he should retire they unanimously insist he remains as he still attracts new clients and at the same time services the old.

Criminal law was his speciality and his forte was as a defence lawyer in jury trials. But at the same time he developed expertise in tax planning and financial law.

He had the foresight to see the forthcoming development of what was to become the Costa del Sol and opened an office in Marbella. As British lawyers were not able to practice in Spain he acted as consultant to his own chambers. By this time Louis sensed that the Franco Government was about to impose restrictions although the frontier remained open.

At that time it was possible to enter politics without having to be a member of a party; it was the era of the independent. He stood and was elected in the 1964 election to the newly formed Legislative Council.

Action soon followed when some Gibraltarians decided to support a group of French families on the Gibraltar side of the frontier who the men in tri-cornered hats had decided not to let through the gates. The crowd then blocked the frontier gate and refused to allow buses into Gibraltar. An ugly scene developed and Louis dashed down to the frontier to offer assistance. He was asked by the Deputy Commissioner of Police to calm down the crowd. He got to the front of the demonstrators, grabbed a loud hailer and told the multitude to follow him to the Convent where a protest would be made. This suggestion met with universal approval and so Triay, like the Pied Piper, led the walk to Convent Place. In the meantime he telephoned the Convent to advise what was about to take place.

On arrival he and a handful of protestors were met by a senior Police officer and escorted into the Convent. Eventually the Governor, General Sir Dudley Ward, came down in his pyjamas and dressing gown and demanded: 'I want to know who is responsible for inciting the crowd? Tell them that if they do not like the way Britain is handling your affairs then there is only one thing for you to do and that is to go back to Spain'. This outburst was received in silence-very much the lull before the storm.

Louis intervened and told his companions that what the Governor meant was that if you do not accept the way the British Government is handling your affairs you would be walking straight into the hands of the Spanish Government. Sir Dudley harrumphed and said 'Yes, that is what I meant to say; thank you Louis'. He then asked what should he do next. Louis replied that he should go out onto the balcony and greet the crowd. This was duly done with a boxer's salute. Fortunately the Governor did not speak Spanish as he was greeted with shouts such as 'hijo de puta', 'cabron' and other choice insults.

However it placated the crowd and they then walked to mount a protest outside Sir Joshua Hassan's house.

In 1963 Sir Joshua Hassan and Peter Isola made the first visit to address the Committee of 24 at the United Nations. This led in 1965 to the formation of a coalition government and Triay was appointed Minister for Port and Trade and a member of the Economic Development Committee.

Louis Triay is known throughout the finance industry as the man who more than anyone else created what has become today's finance centre. He wanted to create the concept of a special fiscal climate in Gibraltar. This came about when he introduced the legislation to create the exempt company which lasted for several decades before being phased out recently as a result of sustained pressure from the European Union and the OECD. A great compliment followed when this concept was copied by the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man; another Gibraltar first. It was the exempt company that attracted all the expatriate financial managers and Trust companies. It was the foundation of what became the Finance Centre.

Louis is an acclaimed international yachtsman having sailed for both Gibraltar and Spain.

He was taught the basics of sailing by Willie Piccone who instilled in him a love and respect for the sea and the finer points of yacht racing. He started in Sharpies, then the RNSA class, followed by Dinghies and then in Victories. Luck follows him around. At the time the cost of a Victory was way beyond his means but Willie Thompson recognised his latent sailing talent. He told him; 'You young whipper snappers think you are the cats whiskers as far as sailing goes. Why don't you try a real boat and see what you can do. You can skipper my Victory for one race and if you win can take her for the second race. Should you win the series then you can have the boat for the second series and if you win the King's Cup the boat is yours'.

'Nina' was a fast boat and Louis went on to win the King's Cup and so the Victory became his. Sir William Thompson was a man of his word.

In 1956 Louis crewed for the Duke of Edinburgh on 'Fairy Fox' when the Royal Yacht 'Britannia' was moored in Gibraltar. Afterwards he was invited to stay for supper and then watch the evening's film which was 'The Seven Year Itch'.

During this time Gonzalo Fernandez de Cordova y Larios, then the Marques de Povar now the Duque de Arion, whose mother was Talia Larios, daughter of Pablo Larios the second, who owned Connaught House now the City Hall, used to crew for Louis during his dinghy races. They were a successful team and one day Gonzalo asked Louis to crew for him in Spain in the Snipe class. For four years 1959-60-61-62 they won the Spanish National Championships and remarkably no busy body Francoist queried why a Gibraltar was in the boat. Louis went on to represent Spain in two European championships and in the World Championships held in Brazil and Long Island Sound. Had the later championship been won he would have received a medal of merit from General Franco. Alas they came third so perhaps it was divine providence at work. The Brazilian team won the event and went on to win the Olympics.

In 1959 Gibraltar applied for recognition to take part in the 1960 Rome Olympic Games. Louis was hoping to represent Gibraltar. Triay was subsequently elected Chairman of the Gibraltar Olympic Committee; a position he has held ever since. China also applied. Both were refused: the Gibraltar bid was rejected on the grounds that it did not have sufficient national federations for recognised sports.

They applied again in 1991 just ahead of the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. Politics reared its ugly head and the Committee was told that the application could not be heard ahead of the Olympics to be held in Spain. At the time Juan Antonio Samaranch was the President of the International Olympic Committee (1980-2001) and as a former Franco appointed Secretary of State for Sport could be guaranteed to obstruct Gibraltar's application in every possible way. Off the record they were told that Gibraltar qualified in every way.

After the games another application was made and this time the answer was that the rules had changed and now only sovereign states could be considered. This change took place whilst Gibraltar's application was in the pending tray as it had never been rejected. This is the basis of the case which is now before a Judge in Lausanne. The Gibraltar Olympic Committee still under the chairmanship of Triay is seeking recognition as a National Olympic Committee which if granted will enable Gibraltarian athletes to take part in future Olympic Games.

He was appointed Commodore of the Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club for three years and is now Life Vice-Patron.

Louis, after such a colourful and eventful life, has a host of stories to tell. Here are a few to whet the appetite.

In 1963 Gonzalo Povar and Louis found themselves on the Spanish Royal Yacht 'Giralda' taking part in the Fastnet race. With both the Conde de Barcelona and Prince Juan Carlos on board, the yacht was collected from the east coast of Denmark and Louis had the young future King of Spain in his watch. Upon arrival at Cowes all on board were invited to shower and breakfast on the Royal yacht Britannia as the guests of Prince Philip. During the race from Cowes to Plymouth the 'Giralda' scraped against a rock off the Scillies and so was out of the race.

The next year after his election to the Legislative Council Louis was automatically declared a persona Non Grata and so was unable to enter Spain.

Upon his retirement from politics he was taken off the PNG list and was asked to crew for King Juan Carlos in Palma, an invitation he accepted and so he became the first Gibraltarian to take part in the Copa del Rey race. A photograph of the King and Louis was published in the Spanish national press.

Louis never took advantage of his friendship with the future King unless there was something that he could do in the back channels of politics. For example he brought to the King's attention that there was no telephone communication between Gibraltar and Spain. The King arranged a meeting with the Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez which duly took place. Telephone communications were restored by the end of the year.

Louis was appointed Chairman of the Gibraltar Rowing Association in 1965 as the two rowing clubs would neither compete or talk to each other. His smooth diplomacy resulted in the restoration of communications and racing.

He was also Chairman of the Gibraltar Yachting Association and mooted the idea of a regatta involving Spanish and Gibraltarian teams that would take place in the waters of the harbour. Triay suggested this idea to King Juan Carlos who agreed and said and he would ensure that the Spanish teams were allowed to travel from Spain to Gibraltar. At that time the frontier was never opened and so it was decided that two motor boats would go over to Algeciras and fetch them.

One morning Louis was called by a Spanish Foreign Office mandarin who asked whether he was speaking to the organiser of the international regatta. He asked two questions – is the military involved?: why cannot the rowing race be held in the bay rather than the harbour. He replied – No: the boats are so fragile that they cannot race in the bay. It must take place in Gibraltar harbour.

The Governor, General Sir William Jackson then telephoned to warn him that the regatta would never happen. Louis replied that it would and he was prepared to wager a magnum of champagne. The deal was struck.

On the due day two motorboats sailed over to collect the Spanish sportsmen and on arrival were told that the local military authorities would not allow the Spaniards to board. Louis was galvanised into action and made a series of telephone calls to members of the King's household. He was told the King was travelling and so was not contactable. An urgent message was left for the King to say that Spanish bureaucracy was preventing the regatta from taking place. This message resulted, an hour or so later, in a call from a senior admiral countermanning the local military, the Spaniards jumped on the boats and a few hours later than scheduled a most successful regatta was held.

Subsequently Sir William telephoned, congratulated Louis on achieving the impossible and invited him round to the Convent to drink the magnum.

During his student days in London Louis struck up a lasting friendship with Paco Mayans who was a committed socialist. Paco wished to be a diplomat but his politics ruled him out so he entered the Spanish Tourist office rising to be appointed the United Kingdom director. Eventually he became press secretary at the Spanish Embassy and then when a Labour Government was elected made a late entry into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Brussels Agreement signed on 27 November 1984 when Fernando Moran was Minister for Foreign Affairs. Paco Mayans in 1982 was appointed special adviser to the Spanish Minister. On 11 January 1985 Mayans led a delegation to the Campo area for talks. Louis thought that it would be helpful if he arranged a meeting between Mayans and Sir Joshua Hassan. This took place in Louis' flat in Trafalgar House and lasted for two hours. The two men got on like a house on fire and became good friends.

A meeting was held in Geneva on 5 February to iron out any last minute difficulties between the two Foreign Ministers in Geneva. Hassan attended as part of the British delegation. Ten days before the meeting Paco telephoned Louis. 'Tell him my seniorito (Moran) is damn annoyed about an article in a Geneva newspaper in which Sir Joshua is quoted as saying some derogatory remarks about him. Moran is minded to impose some conditions before removing the restrictions. The message was passed on to the Chief Minister who asked him to use the back channel to say that he had never said anything and the report was journalistic invention.

Salvador went off to the talks and when he came back told Louis that such was Mayans' powers of persuasion that the threat to impose conditions was not mentioned and the Spanish delegation gave a party in the Chief Minister's honour resulting in Sir Geoffrey Howe remarking that he never knew that Sir Joshua was so friendly with the Spaniards. Such is the power of a friendly word in the ear.

Louis has had an eventful life and one which he has no intention of winding down as he approaches his eightieth birthday. He is an example of how excellent is the education on the Rock and shows what can be achieved with the right combination of determination, charm and brains.

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JULY

TOP MAN RETIRES FROM BAKER TILLY

Emilio Gomez has retired from the partnership at Baker Tilly (Gibraltar) Ltd (BTG).

“Emilio has built up an enviable reputation with his clients and the business profession in general in Gibraltar during the last 33 years, and this planned retirement will allow him to continue in the insurance industry on the ‘other side’, as a Director rather than an auditor. We are pleased to confirm that Emilio will continue as a Consultant/Adviser to our practice, principally in the insurance industry, and we are positive that his assistance will enhance the services and reputation that we already have within Gibraltar,” said Ken Robinson, senior partner /director of BTG.

Mr Gomez commenced his career in 1974 when he worked with two prominent Gibraltarian accountants, Messrs Galliano and Isola, and subsequently became a partner of the international firm, KPMG in July 1986.

In July 2004 Mr Gomez successfully merged his practice with that of Baker Tilly (Gibraltar) which led to the incorporation of Baker Tilly (Gibraltar) Ltd.

During his long career Mr Gomez has been President of the Gibraltar Accountants Society, Chairman of the Gibraltar Insurance Association and Chairman of the Finance Centre Council, a position that he will continue to retain for the foreseeable future.

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GIB MEDALS IN RHODES

GOLD:

Football

Tennis – Ladies Team

Tennis Ladies Singles Carreras

Air Rifle H Manasco

SILVER

Tennis Mixed Doubles Carreras/ Taylor

Pistol Debono/ Apap

Table Tennis Men’s Singles Grelecki

BRONZE

Athletics 4x400 Team

Athletics 800m Taylor

Swimming 400m Indv Med Bensadon

Table Tennis Men’s Doubles Grelecki/ Norwood

Pistol: Military Rapid Pairs Apap/ Yome

Pistol Standard Boulton/ Patron Standard

Pistol Centre Fire Patron/ Martinez

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TOM BRADBY

Many Gibraltarians do not appreciate that Tom Bradby, the political editor of ITV, whilst not a Gibraltarian has close connections with the Rock.

Bradby is the son of a Royal Naval officer and was born in Malta. His father was then stationed at Gibraltar and so Tom began his education at the services school on the Rock before going on to Sherborne and the Edinburgh University.

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V.I.P.

Christine Morris asked in The Daily Mail – Who was the first person referred to as a V.I.P. (Very Important Person)?

Captain F. Anthony replied – In 1941 I was a young staff sergeant in the Chief Engineer’s office in Gibraltar and typed out the script of a skit by Warrant Office Bert Hodges and Sergeant Sid Harris about a military demonstration which misfired.

Describing the scene, they referred to a number of Important Personages. Known as ‘IP’s’. When a senior guest arrived he was a Very Important Personage, a ‘V.I.P.’ The

skit was published in The Rock Magazine, edited by Reg Cudlipp'.
Thus another first for Gibraltar.

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HELP PLEASE

Matthew Fowler is retracing his roots and seeks information. His mother Mrs Ann Jobson formerly Fowler nee Bourne repeatedly mentioned that her cousin Doreen Bourne married the former Bishop of Gibraltar Stanley Albert Eley (1960-1970).

The Eley's were in possession of the Bourne family portraits and in a letter sent in the 60s, the collection was offered to his mother, by then divorced and married to Fitzgerald Jobson and living in Australia. My mother did not accept the offer and the portraits were subsequently sold.

Matthew wishes to trace the Bourne photographs and portraits which includes signed photographs of Queen Elizabeth, Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, Princess Margaret and princess Anne.

Should any reader be able to help please contact Matthew on matthew@figtree-networx.com.au

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ANNABEL COTTRELL

Annabel Cottrell was prevented by the dreaded '*Plantar Fascia*' from running in this year's London Marathon. This is the tissue that connects the middle bones of the foot to the heel and supports the arch. Alas her tissue was trying to detach itself which at least proves that she has been out on serious training.

Mindful of the scorn that such an excuse would earn from her late uncle, Mike Campbell Lamerton, Annabel has arranged to run next year. This means that the £12,000 raised does not have to be returned and indeed nearer the date others will be given the opportunity to augment the grand total.

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ARTHUR MOLINARY

Arthur Molinary, the Gibraltarian medium, has signed a book deal. The book will be titled 'The Little Boy Who Listened'. A launch party will be held on the Rock during the autumn of 2008.

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GIBRALTAR MINDED COUNCILLORS

Both Nick Thomas and Janet Whiteley were elected Conservative Councillors in the recent election.

Nick won a seat at Midhurst which added to the rout of the Liberal Democrats at the Chichester Council.

Janet won a cliff hanger in the Alamein ward where she won by a mere five – take away the votes of herself and husband and she won by three. There were four recounts as her victory which resulted in the elimination of the Liberal democratic Council leader.

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GIBRALTARIAN FIRST

Michael Bruzon is to be the first Gibraltarian to accept a teaching post at Eton. This follows his successful exhibition held at the school last year. He has just obtained his teaching qualification and has been offered a year's contract to cover a teacher's sabbatical.

Last month some of his pictures were displayed at a Brentford Community Exhibition held at the House of Commons.

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JEAN RENO

Jean Reno is currently starring with James Franco in *Flyboys*.

In a rare interview he disclosed his childhood admiration for Gibraltar.

"I was born in Casablanca, at the time a French protectorate, to Andalusian parents who had moved to North Africa to escape Franco's dictatorship. The future is not something you are too aware of as a child, but there was always the understanding that some day we would move again.

Until that happened we looked towards Gibraltar where everyone appeared to us to wear very nice clothes and live in a free and modern way – something we kids were very envious of".

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GIB-MOROCCO FERRY SET TO GO DAILY

by Brian Reyes

Tarifa-based ferry operator FRS Iberia has confirmed plans for a new daily service between Gibraltar and Tangier.

The company, which already operates a weekly link between the two ports, has run a two-week trial to test the service and plans to target tourism opportunities stemming from the new airport.

Although the daily frequency is currently on hold because of heavy demand on other routes from Algeciras and Tarifa, it will be reintroduced as from next month.

The move will address the longstanding concerns of the local Moroccan community, which for years has complained about the difficulties Moroccans face when travelling home across the Strait of Gibraltar.

There is only one weekly ferry from Gibraltar to Tangier and visa restrictions mean most Moroccans are unable to cross into Spain to catch ferries from Algeciras or Tarifa.

The prospect of a daily ferry link was warmly welcomed yesterday.

“This is obviously in our favour and would solve many problems,” said Ali Douissi, general secretary of the Moroccan Community Association. “We hope they can keep this going.”

The key issue for FRS is finding ways to make the daily service profitable.

Although increased frequency is good news for the local Moroccan community, the company will need to generate additional business in order to make the route a success.

FRS managing director Luis Mora conceded that passenger numbers during the two-week trial had not been high.

But he added that the company will nonetheless resume the daily round-trip service on August 5, once the peak season flow through Algeciras and Tarifa subsides.

Mr Mora said FRS was exploring a number of initiatives to generate tourist volumes that would make the service economically viable.

He said the company, which already offers tours and excursions in northern Morocco, would target markets in Madrid and London and link the ferry service to Gibraltar’s expanding airport.

“We are working to develop the commercial plan to capture traffic from these areas,” he told the Chronicle. “We are looking to see if it’s viable.”

The growth of major trade and port developments in and around Tangier could also generate business for the new ferry link, offering the opportunity for businessmen to use Gibraltar as a stepping stone across the Strait to North Africa.

The commercial development of northern Morocco is attracting substantial foreign investment to the region and the Gibraltar Government has, since last year, explored possible opportunities for joint initiatives.

Trade, industry and communications minister Joe Holliday travelled to Morocco last summer and held meetings with ministers and officials there.

Even at that early point, the possibility of expanded maritime links was already being explored.

Earlier this year, key executives from the Tangier Mediterranean Special Agency have visited Gibraltar to brief the local business community on the various projects under way.

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Opinion

WHERE MINDS SHOULD MEET

By Dominique Searle

The affable Chief of Staff Col Malcolm Croft, self-consciously politically incorrect - to the extent that he calls a spade a spade and knows what one looks like and weighs, recently was tugged out of the HQBF in ceremonial style. Such events are now the remaining wisps of a by-gone era in Gibraltar and a bit of fun.

There is a palpable change in the power house sector of Gibraltar in the wake of the new Constitution. After a couple of decades of awkwardness, tension and, on occasions, two-way ham-fistedness, the constitutional, formal and the social aspects of life have found a new harmony.

No one really talks about the 'services' any more except in their narrower military/employer capacity. The Rock has not only ceased to be a fortress but the relationship between civilian

and military population has been reversed. It is now a more sincere and businesslike relationship.

Col Croft's successor inherits with his serious responsibilities the unenviable pleasure of being the president of the Garrison Library. Here is Gibraltar's finest building inherited from the great colonial era. It is exceptional not only in its design and for its having been built for non-belligose purpose, but in the completeness of its historic content.

This is the ancestral home of the Gibraltar Chronicle, built in the wake of the 18th century sieges, funded by William Pitt and dressed in a unique collection of military and cultural books and artefacts. The most symbolic of these is an internally partitioned box that sits in a case on the main stairwell with a hole marked 'yes' and 'no' for blackballing purposes.

Thirty years ago only Gibraltar's elite could join from the civilian population if they were deemed to be of officer status. But even then Gibraltarians who qualified were nonetheless 'class B' members. They could have tea in the gardens (children in the back garden was unthinkable - they would be chased out by EFE Ryan like rabbits from Mr McGregor's garden). I know, I was one such rabbit and have lived and worked a lifetime on that premises. Locals could pay a subscription and borrow books, but there was no vote for them in the affairs of the institution.

The trust set up originally reflected a plethora of regiments and numerous officers (of impeccable breeding, of course) who required civilised entertainment. Having scraped the mud off their boots and had their horses stabled they could prepare for their next posting reading such literature as Pig Sticking in Ceylon, or acquaint themselves with the most recent intelligence on London society events as recorded in the London Gazette or The Times.

But not since the scandal of 'The memoirs of the Chevalier Faublas' sent to be burnt in the very formative years of the institution (in fact ahead of the building being opened in 1804) has the need for the Library to reflect on its own prestige been so pressing. Today, and for some years now, the Garrison Library lives an almost schizophrenic life. Most days, morning to afternoon, it powders its nose and embraces those who do their utmost to preserve a sense of mission as an institution of knowledge and influence. Veteran librarian Lorna Swift and a team of volunteers or low paid part-timers struggle against the odds to recover and preserve the invaluable collection of books and provide a research service to the learned from home and abroad. There is the occasional dignified reception for VIPs and regular worthy charitable and cultural events.

But on the occasional evening, red-cheeked with open door, the Library itself transforms. The whispering, white-gloved, non-smoker bibliophiles are gone, all care and vigilance is abandoned as crates of sticky booze arrive. The dignity of the building surrenders and 'down the primrose path of dalliance treads'.

Surely in today's Gibraltar this great building and oasis of Gibraltar heritage cannot have become reliant for its survival on private parties that slosh late into the night. Surely there are messes and hotels geared for such enterprise.

Gibraltar is ready, surely, to meet the better intentions of the founding members and take its leading place in the trust. This building and its collection need investment and caring restoration. In return it could, under stringent heritage supervision, provide a dignified home for our Parliament in support of other functions such as a national reference and law library.

Sr Presidente (of the Garrison Library) it falls on you to take up the challenge from the Chief Minister to find the way ahead that secures the building for the Parliament and people. A new trust or handover that preserves intact the collection for the interests of all of us who make up the post fortress Gibraltar, including, of course, the educated officers of the Garrison.

In a good agreement the institution will belong to all Gibraltar and be properly accessible to the interested public.

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WORK ON 'THE SAILS' GETS UNDERWAY

By Jared Cooksey

Preliminary work on 'The Sails' development in Queensway Quay has been completed despite early delays.

Sand from the east side of Gibraltar along with rock from an Estepona quarry have been used to fill in caissons to make foundations secure, so building work can commence on the 40 new apartments.

The Dutch dredging and marine contracting company Van Oord has been contracted by Marina Properties Limited to carry out this task having already done so on their other development 'The Island' in the same marina.

It is expected that residents will have to wait for two years to move into their new apartments whilst property owners on 'The Island' can look forward to living there within the next two to three months.

Paul Butler, Director of Marina Properties Limited who bought Queensway Quay seven years ago from Taylor Woodrow believes that it offers something completely different to Marina Bay.

"If you are into high risers you are in the wrong location. Here we offer an alternative.

People in these apartments will wake up and feel like they are living in a boat. If you are into water it is ideal. No other place offers this here in Gibraltar."

He admits that 'The Sails' will be the "final development" on the marina but does not rule out the prospect of developing "another unusual site" in Gibraltar.

GREEK INFLUENCES

The influences of Greek Mythology are all around, with a development site in Gibraltar the latest to take inspiration from it.

Dutch dredging and marine contracting company Van Oord which has worked on 'The Palm' in Dubai has decided to name the seven caissons (large watertight chambers used for under water construction) on 'The Sails' development after Pleiades.

Pleiades is a group of seven stars which is more commonly known as 'The Plough' or 'The Seven Sisters' and is clearly visible in the Mediterranean from the middle of May until the beginning of November.

Pleiades also derives from the Greek word to sail and the Dutch organisation saw the naming of the seven caissons as an ideal way of linking them with the name of the development.

This is by far their most philosophical christening of caissons to date having previously named the eleven on 'The Island' site after the people who had worked on them.

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FLAT BASTION MAGAZINE GETS SOME YORKSHIRE TREATMENT

Soldiers of 150 (Yorkshire) Transport Regiment have spent a day of their exercise time in Gibraltar carrying out repairs and refurbishment tasks on Flat Bastion Magazine. The magazine which is looked after by local history and geology enthusiast Freddie Gomez, dates back at least to 1873 (this date taken from above one of the doorways) although Freddie believes it to be some what older than this and was used to store and re-supply the gun battery's with black powder.

The building that Freddie says is unique has stood the test of time remarkably well.

Volunteers worked on refurbishing the fire step, from which defenders dominated the upper approaches to the magazine and several holes and cracks to the roof, which had the potential to lead to major water damage. At the front, they prepared and painted the railings, pillars and wall as well as replacing the letter box.

The Regiment has just left Gibraltar after a two-week period of training in which they enjoyed all the unique features that the Rock has to offer. The exercise was in some doubt until the last minute as soldiers are recruited from Doncaster and Hull, two areas of Yorkshire that have very recently been heavily affected by the recent flooding. A spokesman for the Regiment praised those who carried on with the exercise in spite of leaving behind an uncertain situation in the UK, and the enthusiasm and skill with which they tackled the repair tasks on the magazine.

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CHINCOTTA APPOINTED MANAGING PARTNER AT HASSAN'S

Local international law firm Hassans has announced the appointment of Javier Chincotta as managing partner with effect from 1 July 2007. Javier joined the firm as an associate in 1991 working closely with the senior partner, James Levy.

He became a partner of the firm in 1997 and head of its commercial department in 2004. Javier has a diverse, mainly international, corporate and private client base and advises on

all aspects of their business and personal affairs, including their corporate structures and tax planning. He has regularly advised multinationals on M&A and multi-jurisdictional transactions. A significant part of his private client practice is devoted to advising HNWI's settling in Gibraltar.

He was recently involved in the setting up of a joint venture office in Luxembourg where the firm has established a company management operation with a Channel Island law firm. Javier will devote most of his time to management of the firm and expansion of its international activities. His appointment is for an initial period of two years and follows on from the substantial expansion of the firm in the last three years.

Hassan's will be recruiting 12 new lawyers on 1 September 2007 increasing the number of lawyers, qualified accountants and trust practitioners to over 80.

Commenting on the appointment Senior Partner James Levy, said: "Javier has been with the firm for many years and is an extremely capable individual. He has an incisive insight in to the workings of the firm and has knowledge of the management of a legal practice, having attended training courses internationally. I am delighted at his appointment and sure that he will be hugely successful."

Javier's appointment was made after a unanimous decision by the Partners.

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OCEAN VILLAGE REJECT CRITICISMS OF 'UNHEALTHY' COMPETITION

By Jared Cooksey

Concerns over unfair competition being caused by the Ocean Village complex have been rejected by its developers.

Fears had been raised by local businessmen who felt the layout of Ocean Village would create unhealthy competition with other Gibraltar businesses.

Harry Gomez owner of the Piazza Grill is worried that two entry and exit points, most notably the one by the coach terminal would shepherd tourists into the development leading them away from Main Street.

Mr Gomez fears that visitors will be channelled into one particular direction as soon as they are faced with the entrance to the Ocean Village complex upon their arrival on the Rock. These claims have been rejected by Brian Stevendale and Francis Brancato both directors of the Ocean Village team.

They are adamant the brand new complex will offer greater "consumer choice" as well as providing something which is "completely unique" offering an "alternative to Main Street." They are intent on raising Gibraltar's profile with this development which they hope will offer a real alternative to traditional rival destinations in Spain such as Puerto Banus and Sotogrande.

Both men also suggest that the complex which could be completed by the end of the year would offer activities and concerts produced by Gibraltarian groups.

With the beautification of the marina and a £250,000 water feature the complex will offer a "seven day a week project which will be accessible for all."

They are also hopeful that the development will "encourage visitors to stay longer" here in Gibraltar as well as attracting locals to sample what is on offer there.

A large number of Gibraltarian owned and run businesses are also expected to take up trading positions in the complex.

Andre De Barr, owner of 'Gaucho's' and 'The Tunnel' is not concerned about any competition arising from Ocean Village.

He insists that "anything that moves Gibraltar forward has got to be healthy."

Mr De Barr believes that Ocean Village is a "strong contender" for Gibraltar offering another great location for tourists to visit.

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HMS MONTROSE ARRIVES TO GIB

The British navy frigate HMS Montrose is currently in Gibraltar, a Forces spokesman confirmed yesterday.

HMS Montrose will be conducting essential training in the seas surrounding Gibraltar. The visit is expected to last several days.

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SOVEREIGN'S PARADE

The Queen was represented by Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, former Governor and retiring Chairman of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society, at The Sovereign's Parade at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

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DAILY MIRROR

Gibraltar dominates a half page advertisement in the Daily Mirror selling a ten day summer sunshine cruise to see 'the best of Spain and Gibraltar'. The copy says that 'Then it is on to Gibraltar, bathed in glorious sunshine while cooled by a refreshing breeze'.

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ALICE FERRARY

The engagement has been announced between James Paravicini and Alice, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs Peter Ferrary. The Ferrarys live in Marignac, France.

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MAIN STREET SHOPPING PARADISE?

The editor went down Main Street to compare the John Lewis Partnership price of £199 for a Canon Digital Ixus 30. Each shop was told to provide its best price for a comparison. They were as follows in descending order Carlos Alwani £ 209: Kingsway £200: Kaycee £ 195: Marquez £190: Galaxy £185: Euro Electronics £180.

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ALAMEDA GARDENS IN BOTANICAL GUIDE

By Jared Cooksey

Alameda Gardens has joined other sites in Spain and Portugal to feature in the latest botanical gardens guide.

It is one of 25 sites from Gijón to the Azores to feature in the Association of Botanic Gardens of Iberia and Macaronesia leaflet.

The guide which has been published in English, Portuguese and Spanish contains a map of all the locations as well as contact details and a summary of the collective aim of the botanic gardens.

The Management of the Alameda Gardens is "very pleased" to be featuring "prominently" in the publication and to be "fully integrated" with this international network.

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MINE HUNTER TASK GROUP IN GIB ROUTINE VISIT

HQBF has announced the arrival in Gibraltar of the mine hunter task group that consists of HMS Shoreham, HMS Walney, HMS Atherstone, HMS Hurworth and the RFA Cardigan Bay. The ships will be conducting various essential operational training programmes in and around the seas surrounding Gibraltar, berthing in Gibraltar. The visit is expected to last several days. The task group is heading back to UK after deployment in the Gulf.

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LA LINEA POPULATION JUST OUTSIDE TOP 100

by Jared Cooksey

Remarkably La Linea finds itself just outside the top 100 most populated towns in the whole of Spain according to a National Institute of Statistics Report.

Ranking 105th with a total of 63,026 people residing in the border town, La Linea is also the 22nd most populated place in Andalucía behind the region's provincial capitals and other leading towns including Algeciras, El Ejido and Fuengirola.

Curiously, the town, which is the eighth most inhabited in the Cádiz province, has more residents than the provincial capitals of Ávila, Cuenca and Segovia.

The main reason La Linea figures so highly in the standings is that residents of towns dotted around the commuter belt of Spain's major cities are added to the population of those larger capitals.

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ARMY VOLUNTEERS IN CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

151 Logistic Support Regiment as they completed voluntary work to clear Witham's Cemetery during their recent Exercise Marble Tor in Gibraltar. The cemetery, which dates back to the early 19th century, has sadly fallen into a state of disrepair and the regiment was pleased to be able to assist in clearing much of the ground vegetation.

In addition, the cemetery had become a dumping place for all sorts of other rubbish.

Working over three days and helped by members of the Joint Support Unit of British Forces

Gibraltar, the unit removed over 50 large sacks full of vegetation and rubbish and several tons of wood from dead trees.

A military spokesman said: "The regiment is returning to its base in London and has enjoyed its two weeks on the Rock, a much welcome relief from military duties that for many of the more experienced includes operational tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. However it is with some degree of apprehension, conscious of the recent flooding and the potential dangers to the Thames river basin."

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NO HIGH-RISE AT QUEEN'S CINEMA SITE, SAYS GOVT

Government has reacted to Chronicle press reports regarding plans for the construction of a £12m high-rise block on the site of the Queen's Cinema. Convent Place yesterday declared that they will not permit this type of construction on such a site.

A Gibraltar Government spokesman said: "Plans to build a development on the current site of the Queen's Cinema, by Taylor Woodrow, has not been discussed with Government as is common practice. Under these circumstances Government is unable to comment on the specifics of the scheme, at this stage. However, Government will not permit the development of a high rise building on this site."

"Government is aware that a planning application has been submitted to the Development and Planning Commission, but this will not be given due consideration (from a planning perspective) until September."

"The public should be aware that under the current open planning procedure, a planning application can be submitted by any applicant to the DPC. However, Government's consent will always be required before any project can proceed on any Crown Property. This is what has happened in this case, as Taylor Woodrow has submitted a planning application to the DPC, before seeking Government's approval to the scheme."

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AUGUST

LA LINEA UNVEILS AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR NEW MARINA

The Port of Algeciras has confirmed plans by a private company to build a 777-berth marina in La Linea. The project was approved this week by the board of the Algeciras Port Authority, which is responsible for all Spanish port installations in the Campo de Gibraltar and Tarifa.

Alcaidesa Servicios was awarded a concession to build and run the marina.

The company will invest E21m in the facility, which will be located close to the frontier with Gibraltar.

Speaking to the press Mayor Juan Carlos Juárez said 650 jobs will be created, with twice as many by way of indirect employment.

"The economic spin-offs will mean a huge boost for La Linea. This will be one of the best marinas in Spain, given its privileged location beside an airport and a Palacios de Congresos," he declared.

The first phase is due for completion in early 2009.

The project stretches an area of almost 60,000 square metres of land on the Poniente side, and 240,000 square metres of sea of which 90,000 will be used for a reclamation project consisting of a marina, green zones, sporting facilities and a commercial-recreational complex.

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Spanish company denies pull-out

IBERIA ANALYSES OPTIONS ON GIB-MADRID ROUTE

by Brian Reyes

Iberia's service between Madrid and Gibraltar is performing below initial expectations but the airline has no plans to pull out of the route. Senior operations executives at the Spanish company are looking at the service in detail following news that GB Airways is suspending its own link to the Spanish capital as from this winter.

A Madrid-based spokeswoman for Iberia played down a report on Friday that said the Spanish airline was also poised to pull out to allow subsidiary Air Nostrum to step in with smaller planes.

“There is no decision on this,” the spokeswoman said. “We are analysing this route, as we do with all our routes.” But she added: “The service between Madrid and Gibraltar is not living up to expectations.”

The decision by GB Airways raised questions and speculation about the future of air links to the Spanish capital. GB Airways revealed the move just three months after the service was launched. It said it was down to limited availability of slots in Madrid and operating restrictions at Gibraltar.

But the Gibraltar Government said operating issues in Gibraltar had been resolved by the Ministry of Defence and that this was a commercial decision by GB Airways.

“If there is demand for a second flight on the Madrid route, no doubt an operator will provide it,” a Government spokesman said.

Whether that demand exists or not remains unclear.

Iberia said yesterday that occupancy levels on its flights to and from the Spanish capital averaged around 60%. But it also said the financial viability of a service depended on more complex factors than simple ‘bums on seats’.

The airline does not release route-specific revenue figures but conceded that the Madrid-Gibraltar service was not going as well as expected.

The Chronicle understands that part of the reason for this was a degree of overcapacity on the route. Both Iberia and GB Airways were operating large aircraft on their respective services. Another factor was the timetable of those services, which was not ideally suited to the business travellers who use the flights most.

These and other issues were discussed at a meeting on Thursday between senior Iberia executives and Joe Holliday, Gibraltar’s Minister for trade, industry and communications. The meeting was routine and had been planned for some time, but was dominated by the repercussions of the GB Airways’ announcement two days earlier. Mr Holliday declined to go into detail on the discussions but said: “I can categorically say that Iberia is not pulling out of the Gibraltar-Madrid route.”

There are various options open to the Spanish airline on the Gibraltar-Madrid air link.

One possibility, as suggested in an article by Panorama on Friday, is that Iberia replaces its large planes with Air Nostrum’s smaller aircraft.

With capacity for around 70 passengers, these planes are cheaper to operate and would enable the airline to maximise its income per passenger.

Another option however is that Iberia changes its schedules to make the services more appealing to business travellers. In theory at least, it could even step into the gap left by GB Airways. Either way, the Iberia spokeswoman insisted yesterday: “At this stage, no decision has been taken.”

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GB Airways shock announcement

FLIGHTS TO MADRID SUSPENDED DUE TO “OPERATING RESTRICTIONS”

Public opinion has expressed dismay following the surprise announcement by GB Airways yesterday afternoon that it was suspending its winter schedule of flights to the Spanish capital. In a statement last night, airline chairman James Gaggero blamed “the severely limited availability of slots in Madrid” which makes our schedule “far too tight.”

He also referred to “operating restrictions on flights into Gibraltar,” that in his view, will be exacerbated by the new terminal and runway works due to start later this year.

But, the Gibraltar Government have been less than impressed with the decision by GB Airways. In answer to questions a Convent Place spokesman said: “The Government’s

understanding is that MOD have already addressed the problem of air traffic control and late incoming flights. Terminal and tunnel works are not expected to impact on flights schedules.”

“These are commercial, market decisions for GB Airways. If there is demand for a second flight on the Madrid route, no doubt an operator will provide it.”

The statement by GB Airways Chairman James Gaggero, a copy of which was obtained by the Chronicle, was released in the first instance to the Spanish press.

Mr Gaggero said: “ GB Airways has announced with regret that it will not operate a winter schedule from Gibraltar to Madrid after the summer season ends. We are terribly disappointed to be suspending these flights and apologise to everyone affected. When we launched these services we were keen to do all we could to support the efforts of our politicians and the “Cordoba Process.” We were encouraged by the support we received from our customers and the local press and are immensely grateful for this. We have done everything possible to make this new route a success and to serve the needs of the communities in and around Gibraltar.”

He continued: “In spite of our best efforts we have not been able to overcome a number of obstacles we have faced since announcing that we wished to launch these services particularly the severely limited availability of slots in Madrid which continues to make our schedule far too tight. Furthermore, the operating restrictions on flights into Gibraltar have made life unexpectedly difficult for us and more importantly for our customers. The new terminal and runway works that are due to start in Gibraltar this winter will no doubt exacerbate these problems.”

Kevin Hatton, chief executive, GB Airways added: “Our experience this summer demonstrates that although there is clearly a market for direct flights between Gibraltar and Madrid we will need to resolve a number of key areas before we are in a position to re-launch this service. Work will be carried out in the meantime to assess the potential for services to recommence in summer 2008.”

“Flights between Gibraltar and London Gatwick will revert to the former schedule with an evening departure to London balancing both the UK and Gibraltar customer needs. The airline will operate the final flight on September 30, 2007. All passengers who are currently booked on services after this date will be offered a refund or re-accommodated on the Iberia service.”

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Works to commence in January 2008

GOVT ANNOUNCE MAJOR PROJECT

• “*New lease of life for historic area,*” says Holliday

by Jared Cooksey

The Government has rejected the notion that the announcement of plans for the refurbishment of Europa Point has been a PR exercise for the upcoming election. Minister for Trade and Industry Joe Holliday said that the timing of the announcement had nothing to do with the impending vote, with plans “having been in the pipeline” for some time.

They are hoping to convert the area into “one of Gibraltar’s leading leisure facilities both for residents and tourists” with work expected to start in January next year.

A number of ideas have been proposed for the site which is set to go to tender this month, including a new glass enclosed viewing platform, children’s play areas and extensive promenades.

The current boulevards will also be in for a makeover with the pedestrian walkways set to be repaved and beautified in conjunction with the rest of the area.

The formation of a new parking zone with provision for small coaches will also be to the benefit of visitors. According to Mr Holliday there is a “definite need for public parking so a variety of tours can incorporate it and take full advantage of the spectacular and unique views that are on offer.”

The vicinity will also have a strong sporting feel to it with the construction of a new pistol shooting range to be erected adjacent to the present rifle range.

Safeguards have also been put in place to counteract the threat of extreme weather conditions hammering the area. Materials, finishes and landscaping for new paving and street furnishings will be selected for “optimum performance”.

Mr Holliday clearly believes that there is more to the site than just the views: “We have been working with the Heritage Trust because there is a great sense of historical reference

to the area. All new works are to be carried out with due consideration for the historic sensitivity of the area and with equal consideration for the present users.”

Work on the site is expected to take 15 months with the possibility of neighbouring plots, including Nun’s Well, being incorporated with the improved Europa Point.

The Government are hopeful that the project will “serve to give a new lease of life and make valuable use of a significant and historic area” as well as “regenerate an area that has been under-utilised for many years.”

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ROCK OF AGES CAMPAIGN RECEIVES DONATION FROM DISTRICT GRAND LODGE

The English Freemasons of Gibraltar have presented a cheque for £5,000 to the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity for its Rock of Ages Campaign. Alfred Ryan, Deputy District Grand Master in Charge of Gibraltar’s English Masons, presented the cheque to Dean Alan Woods, on behalf of the Freemasons’ Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England. The District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar said it had been delighted that the request for the grant was favorably considered and approved by the Committee and Council of the Freemasons’ Grand Charity of the United Grand Lodge of England. The District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar believes it is “a worthy and most needed cause, and it is hoped that the grant will help in the repairs and restoration of the Cathedral Holy Trinity”.

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GIBRALTAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Government’s Town Planning Division, in conjunction with the Development and Planning Commission has produced a Draft Gibraltar Development Plan for public consultation. This Plan, once approved in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Town Planning Act, will replace the existing 1991 Gibraltar Development Plan.

The new Plan will provide the framework for land use planning in Gibraltar for the next decade. It also has a long-term vision and certainty on how Gibraltar will develop over this period.

Public Exhibition

The Draft Gibraltar Development Plan is open for public consultation from 16 August – 16 October 2007. To this end, an exhibition of the Plan is open to the public during the two-month consultation period. The exhibition venue is the Casemates Exhibition Galleries on the first floor of Casemates Barracks.

The exhibition also includes a large model of the whole area of Gibraltar comprising the Midtown and Mid Harbour projects. This model shows how that regenerated zone of Gibraltar will look including the construction of the Mid Harbour Government Rental Estate, the King’s Bastion Leisure Centre, the public park, the New School, the Midtown Development, the King’s Wharf development, the new roads and parkings and the small boat owners Marina. The exhibition will also include images of the Government’s new rental housing estate, new air terminal and related new roads and tunnel scheme.

The exhibition provides a summary of the main aspects of the Plan and will be open Monday to Friday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and 2.30 pm to 5.00 pm. In addition, a web site has been set up to make a web version of the Exhibition available to as wide an audience as possible. The address is www.gibdevplan.gov.gi. The full version of the Plan will also be placed on the website. Copies of the full Draft Plan will be available for inspection at the exhibition venue, at the John Mackintosh Hall Library and at the offices of the Department of Trade & Industry, Town Planning Division, Suite 631, Europort.

Public Feedback

Any objections received during the consultation period will be considered by the Development and Planning Commission and, where appropriate, modifications will be made to the Draft

Plan. Any such modifications will be subject to a further public participation period of three weeks. On completion of this second public participation period the Development and Planning Commission will submit the modified Plan, together with all objections received, to the Chief Minister for approval, as the law requires.

The Content of the Plan

The Consultation Draft comprises a suite of inter-related documents:

- Parts I and II:
 - Part I – General policies – sets out planning policy in relation to a variety of topics;
 - Part II – area specific policies and proposals – Gibraltar has been divided into nine land use zones and specific policies and proposals have been formulated for each of these.
- The Old Town Plan – although the Old Town is one of the above-mentioned nine land use zones, the importance and complexities of the Old Town require a specific area plan. In the future, other specific area plans may be produced for other zones where this is considered necessary.
- The Old Town Design Guide – provides detailed policy guidance on design within the Old Town.

The Consultation Draft Plan places much emphasis on improving the standard of design in all new development, whether small or large scale. It also encourages a more sustainable approach to development through energy-efficient design and use of micro-renewable energy generation, although this has to be balanced against aesthetic considerations and potential impact on surrounding users.

The Draft Plan also encourages the improvement of public access to the waterfront wherever the opportunity arises. In particular, development proposals on the waterfront will be required to provide waterfront promenades. This has been Government's policy for a number of years.

Sites throughout Gibraltar are identified for various types of development. In some cases, proposals for development of these sites are relatively well advanced and are likely to come forward early on in the life of the Plan. In other cases, development proposals have not been formulated and these sites are more likely to come on stream later in the life of the Plan.

Environmental Impact Assessment

For the first time, and in line with recent EU legislation, an assessment on the likely environmental effects of the Plan at a strategic level has been undertaken. This assessment has been carried out by an independent environmental planning consultant. This document is known as "Strategic Environmental Assessment" and the outcome of this assessment has been published in the form of an 'Environmental Report'. This Report is also open for public consultation in parallel with the Consultation Draft Plan.

Minister's Comment

"I am delighted to present the Draft Development Plan, which is now open to public consultation for the next two months", said the Hon Joe Holliday, Minister with responsibility for Planning. "I wish to encourage the general public to examine the Draft Plan and submit any proposals they may wish to the Development and Planning Commission to consider before this document is finalised. I appreciate that this Development Plan has taken longer than anticipated. However, I believe that this document is a vast improvement on the last Development Plan published in 1991. In the meantime, I wish to take this opportunity to point out that even though this Plan is overdue, Gibraltar has not been without a Development Plan and that the 1991 Plan has been applied to all decisions taken by the Development and Planning Commission throughout this time.

Statements by others that the Government has allowed a development "free for all" are simply untrue.

Government is acutely aware that there is a limit to the amount of development that Gibraltar can or should sustain. The developments of which the public are already aware come very close to attaining that limit. What is more the Government has clear views on building height limitation. The Government's approach to development has to be seen together with its approach to the crucial areas of traffic and parking. This consists of :

- (1) Building new roads, (new Westside/Queensway link road; new Chatham Counterguard Road; new Willis' Road/Castle Road link road; new four lane road linking the City to North Front Area, passing through a tunnel under the airfield);
- (2) building new car parks (Willis' Road, New Harbours, Sandpits, three car parks on Devil's Tower Road, Engineer Lane and the Grand Parade Underground Car Park.) The Devil's Tower Road schemes will enable the Government to operate 'park n ride' facilities for visitors and others;
- (3) introduction of residents only parking schemes in residential areas;
- (4) the continuing improvement of the public bus service, and;
- (5) a £6 million scheme to re-open Dudley Ward Tunnel safely.

Note to Editors

In order to facilitate coverage of this news item we attach:

1. Summary index of policies contained in the Plan. This will facilitate identification of the sort of issues covered.
2. Copy of the exhibition material, which serves as a summary of the Plan.

A Copy of the full Plan is available on request.

The nine zones are:

- (1) The Old Town
- (2) Bayside/Westside
- (3) Port & Harbour
- (4) Eastside
- (5) North Front
- (6) North District
- (7) Europa
- (8) South District

Upper Rock

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HOLLIDAY REJECTS OPPOSITION DOUBTS OVER NEED FOR NEW AIR TERMINAL

Gibraltar needs the planned new air terminal, parking facilities and underground road access if only to meet the existing demand and issues, Joe Holliday, DTI Minister and acting Chief Minister made clear .

He was responding to claims from the GSLP/Opposition that, in the light of the GB Airways pull out, the planned airport expansion was not necessary and the status quo could remain.

Mr Holliday was adamant that he is confident that services to Gibraltar will expand and, whilst he expressed hope that GB Airways will relook at providing services between Gibraltar and Madrid, he suggested that another airline is already looking at filling that capacity.

"We need a new road, air terminal and infrastructure irrespective of any change in demand," said Mr Holliday. He said that the Government was aware of the lead in time airlines require before providing services and also said that it was pacing discussions with the timetable for completion of the new terminal and infrastructure.

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US MEDALS FOR GIBRALTAR SOLDIERS IN AFGHANISTAN

Two local soldiers have been awarded the prestigious Army Commendation Medal by the United States Army. Major Ivor Lopez and WO2 John Paul Payas returned from a six month tour in Afghanistan where they were responsible for training officers for the Afghan National Army.

The medals were awarded by the US forces in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the alliance's efforts in Afghanistan. They were presented with the medals by Colonel Bennet of the US Army who commands Training Assistance Group in Task Force Phoenix, Kabul. After some well earned leave with their families Maj Lopez and WO2 Payas will be back to work with the Regiment: Maj Lopez takes over a Staff appointment in HQ British Forces, while WO2 Payas becomes the Sergeant Major of the newly formed I Company.

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LEBANESE PREMIER TAKES SURPRISE ROCK TOUR

Lebanon's Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and members of his family made a surprise five hour visit to Gibraltar under tight security involving Royal Gibraltar Police escort and plain clothes guards in Spanish registered cars.

The premier left the Rock driving out from Casemates after walking down Main Street. Mr Saniora is holidaying in Spain.

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LOCAL EXPERT HEADS FOR EARTHQUAKE STRICKEN PERU

Local Fire and Emergency Management Consultant Joe Bishop flew to Lima, Peru to lead a team of United Nations experts to assist with emergency relief operations following Wednesday's devastating earthquake which has caused large loss of life and extensive damage to property and infrastructure in the Peruvian Department of Ica.

The earthquake of magnitude 8 has severely affected the Provinces of Ica, Chincha, Cañete and Pisco. A quarter of the buildings in the city of Ica with a population of 120,000, were destroyed, Reports put the number of dead at 447 and over 1,500 more injured as rescue workers continued to dig through rubble, holding out hope for survivors.

In Pisco, the city's main Catholic church crumbled as the quake struck during a funeral. Soldiers and rescue workers Thursday night looked for 20 to 30 people believed trapped and at least 60 bodies were pulled from the rubble of the church and lined up in the city's plaza. As many as 200 people were in the church when it broke apart, the town's mayor explained.

Joe's team is composed of Regional and European experts, who will be assisting the Peruvian Government and the United Nations, in conducting damage and needs assessments in the affected areas and providing coordination support to the international search and rescue operation. The team has also been tasked with conducting environmental impact assessments following secondary threats posed by the quake.

Having been commissioned to conduct emergency management consultancies in Peru over the last two years for the Swiss Development Cooperation and the UN, Joe is a well known and respected figure in emergency management circles in Peru. He has also trained many disaster experts in the Region, as part of the expansion of the U N Disaster Assessment and Coordination Programme.

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NO RELOCATION OF HMS ROOKE AT LEAST FOR NOW, SAYS HOLLIDAY

F Oliva reports

HMS Rooke, the Ministry of Defence naval complex in the middle of town, will not be relocated at least for the time being despite the urban development plans that will radically alter the entire area.

According to the recently published Gibraltar Development Plan, HMS Rooke will be landlocked once the projects in the pipeline, such as the Mid Harbour reclamation for the construction of a new Government rental housing estate, are completed.

The project envisages the reclamation of a land mass of over 18,000 square metres that will completely surround the military installations.

Although the Ministry of Defence is prepared to transfer the complex to the Gibraltar Government and the latter is interested in the land, the MoD insists that the existing facilities at Rooke are not surplus to Defence requirements and would therefore need to be

relocated.

The re-provisioning of the facilities to a different location would be a very expensive exercise, quantified in millions of pounds that would have to be met from Gibraltar Government coffers.

Meanwhile acting Chief Minister Joe Holliday has confirmed that nothing is going to happen in the short term.

The Gibraltar Government has already relocated a military nautical facility located at Rooke, to a different coastal location.

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SEPTEMBER

CHIEF MINISTER TAKES THE DEVELOPMENT TOUR

By Brian Reyes

Work on the King's Bastion Leisure Centre is fast approaching completion and facilities are expected to open formally on November 1st.

The date was revealed by Chief Minister Peter Caruana yesterday as he toured the site to check on its progress.

The building uses cutting-edge

modern architectural styles but retains the historical walls of the bastion in their entirety.

The aim was to create a contemporary design to complement rather than replicate the old walls.

The leisure centre itself is contained within the boundary of the bastion but does not infringe on it. Areas of wall that were lost inside the old power station have now been recovered and restored.

Mr Caruana was clearly impressed by what he saw as he walked around with project manager Jack Hop, from developer Volker Stevin, and Carl Viagas, the Gibraltar Government's heritage officer.

Standing by the steel and glass ceiling he said: "The glass is the secret of the whole design concept."

"Only the glass actually comes into contact with the walls."

The leisure centre is in fact "a box within a box", Mr Viagas added, and because only the glass panels touch the stone walls, the old bastion appears visually untouched.

Inside, the building feels vast and airy. You can look through parts of the glass ceiling to the Rock outside. Even on a grey day like yesterday, the design by Dutch architect Stefan Ritzen creates a strong impression of space and light.

From the outside the size of the bastion is deceptive. Inside, it is surprisingly spacious.

Inside will be housed a large bowling complex, two cinemas, a nightclub and ice rink.

Walkways around the bastion will enable strollers to walk uninterrupted along a sizeable stretch of Gibraltar's defensive walls.

The final cost of the bastion will reach around £11.5m, half of which will be paid by the developer as a premium for a project on the Midtown site.

Volker Stevin's Mr Hop said the work had proved challenging, particularly the steel and glass ceiling.

"It's not easy to build," he said. "There's lots of detailing."

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GIBRALTAR GENERAL ELECTION CALLED FOR OCTOBER 11TH

Chief Minister Peter Caruana has today advised the Governor Sir Robert Fulton to dissolve Parliament and has called a General Election for Thursday 11th October 2007. The Governor has issued a Proclamation dissolving Parliament and convening a General Election accordingly.

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SOLID COVER FOR DUDLEY WARD TUNNEL

The approach road into Dudley Ward tunnel will be covered with a reinforced concrete canopy to protect against rock falls, according to a Government tender notice today.

The tender is for construction of a 500m stretch of road to realign and protect access to the tunnel once it is reopened.

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GORHAM'S CAVE RESEARCH SHOWS CLIMATE CHANGE 'DIDN'T WIPE OUT THE NEANDERTHALS'

Scientists have ruled out climate change as a possible cause of extinction in the Neanderthals, research published today reveals. This follows analysis of evidence from Gorham's Cave in Gibraltar.

The Neanderthals, recognised as an archaic form of human since their discovery in the early 19th century, inhabited Europe and parts of western Asia for more than 100,000 years, but their extinction has been a contentious issue among scientists.

Some believe that competition with modern humans led to their extinction, whereas others maintain that climatic conditions were to blame.

Now scientists at the University of Leeds have ruled out catastrophic climate change.

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, has shown that the Neanderthal extinction did not coincide with any of the extreme climate events that punctuated the last glacial period. Professor Chronis Tzedakis, a palaeoecologist at the University of Leeds, said: "Until now, there have been three limitations to understanding the role of climate in the Neanderthal extinction: uncertainty over the exact timing of their disappearance; uncertainties in converting radiocarbon dates to actual calendar years; and the chronological imprecision of the ancient climate record." The research team's method - mapping radiocarbon dates of interest directly onto a well-dated palaeoclimate archive - circumvented the last two problems, providing a much more detailed picture of the climate at the possible times of the Neanderthal disappearance.

The researchers applied the new method to three alternative sets of dates for the timing of the Neanderthal extinction from Gorham's Cave, Gibraltar - a site which is thought to have been occupied by some of the latest surviving Neanderthals.

The three alternative sets of dates for the timing of the Neanderthal extinction have been narrowed down to:

- a set of generally accepted but older dates - around 30-32,000 radiocarbon years ago;
- newly-suggested younger dates - around 28,000 radiocarbon years ago;
- more contentious dates - around 24,000 radiocarbon years ago.

Palaeoanthropologist Katerina Harvati, of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany, said: "Our findings suggest that there was no single climatic event that caused the extinction of the Neanderthals.

"Only the controversial date of 24,000 radiocarbon years for their disappearance, if proven correct, coincides with a major environmental shift.

"Even in this case, however, the role of climate would have been indirect, by promoting competition with other human groups."

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LOCAL EXPERTS DOUBTS NEW NEANDERTHAL THEORY

by Alice Mascarenhas

New research published on the ongoing saga of the extinction of Neanderthal man ruling out climate change as a possible cause "has not provided the slightest bit of evidence" in support of this latest argument, according to the Director of the Gibraltar Museum, and the man leading the excavation works and findings at Gorham's Cave, professor Clive Finlayson.

On Thursday scientists at the University of Leeds, publishing a paper in the journal *Nature*, ruled out catastrophic climate change as a possible cause of extinction saying it did not coincide with any of the extreme climate events that punctuated the last glacial period.

Researchers based this on three alternative sets of dates for the time of their extinction from Gorham's Cave.

But Professor Finlayson believes data published by the Gorham's team earlier this year has been misinterpreted in this latest analysis, adding that the scientists seem to have confused dates which have to do with people living in the cave and interpreting them to mean when they actually went extinct.

"They have tried to match climatic events with people still being there, and interpreted it to be climatic events with people going extinct. Therefore there is a mismatch," he claims.

Instead Professor Finlayson suggests this paper adds more evidence to the idea that climate change was the cause of the extinction of Neanderthal man. He revealed that there were more dates in the pipeline to add to this theory and which will be published shortly.

The dates used by this latest group of scientists were published earlier this year when new material found in Gorham's Cave set the date for the occupation of Neanderthal man as early as 24,000 and 28,000 years ago - placing Gibraltar as one of the last possible sites

where the Neanderthals lived.

This latest paper, according to Professor Finlayson, has tried to match these dates with a climate curve from Venezuela. He believes this to be unusual, pointing out that his team has recently been looking at their own climate curve by matching what is happening in Gorham's to the sea in Alboran, and other places closer to Gibraltar.

There are a number of problems with this latest theory, he claims: "The main one is that they have misunderstood the whole basis of our evidence. They have assumed that whether the date is 24,000, 28,000 or 32,000 years ago, that this is the extinction date of the Neanderthals in Gorhams. What they are, are dates when there are still enough Neanderthals to be living there. The extinction would happen after that. So therefore to try and match climate curve to that date misses the point."

But he points out that the authors admit that 24,000 years ago, there could be an argument for climate, except that the climate event is 3000 years after the 24,000.

"This is exactly what we have been arguing because at 24,000 there are Neanderthals," he emphasises.

"They would disappear some time after. If you look at our published data we have Neanderthals living in Gorham's up to 24,000 years ago, and then there is no one in the cave until 18,500 years ago when modern people arrive. So this climate event they pick up 3,000 years after 24,000 is in the middle when we have no one living in the cave. So if anything it supports what we have been arguing and publishing that something is happening between 24,000 and 18,500, That it's pretty harsh down here, to the point that nobody lives in this cave. I feel they have actually misinterpreted this by assuming that those dates are extinction dates when what they are on paper was called late survival and not extinction. Those are dates when there were still Neanderthals around."

"What I don't feel they can do in a scientific paper either is that by arguing that they cannot see a correlation between climate and these last Neanderthals (different from the Neanderthals as a whole and not the extinction of the Neanderthals in Gorham's) they then conclude that it is the arrival of modern people which causes it. But in the paper they do not have any proof or evidence of any kind of inter-action between modern humans and Neanderthals anywhere. So it is almost by default, and for me that is not a good way of doing science."

Meanwhile excavations have continued in Gorham's Cave since August 13. The team has been excavating the late Neanderthal level identified last summer from where vast amounts of new material have been forthcoming. They found a number of Neanderthal stone tools which they have been able to match and re-create, which he says, shows that the Neanderthals were not arriving in Gorham's with ready made tools but were actually making them there. The team is again international and includes Oxford scientists. The next stage is for a very high resolution sequencing to take place, with chemical analysis and even the identification of DNA.

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EASTSIDE DEVELOPMENT 'ON TRACK'

The Eastside development is 'on track', No 6 confirmed yesterday. Answering Chronicle questions the Government said that all issues between Government and the developers have been resolved. The Environmental Impact study is expected within the next six weeks and that will then go to the Development and Planning Commission for consideration.

Developers have paid in excess of £30m land premium to the Gibraltar Government. "This development represents a major contribution to Gibraltar's future economic growth," said a spokesman.

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'YOUSTAMPS' NEW CONCEPT FOR GIB PHILATELIC

by Alice Mascarenhas

A new concept in stamps is ready to be launched by the Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau. YouStamps are the latest product to see the Bureau embark on a new modern format which is the latest stamp craze and which seeks to introduce personalised mail by creating one's own photographs printed alongside specially designed postage stamps of your choice. There are five themes to choose from: New baby; With Love; Commitment; Let's Celebrate and Greetings from Gibraltar.

Head of the Bureau Glendon Martinez, who is very excited about this latest venture, has brought together local designer Stephen Perera who has designed not just the stamps but

also the web site, and programmers Jason Barnham and David Friend from gibdesign.com who have wired it all up so that images can be sent and YouStamps created all within a problem-free step by step setup and a secure payment environment.

Mr Martinez is confident of this new and exciting project, which although it is not a new concept, is nevertheless innovative for Gibraltar, and sees the Bureau keeping up with modern trends in the world of stamps.

For stamp collectors The Collector's Edition will be composed of a set of 5 x G (Gibraltar postage rate) stamps and 5 x E (UK & Europe postage rate) stamps. Five sheetlets (A4 size) of 20 stamps each (20 sets) complete the issue.

After clicking on the YouStamps link on www.gibraltar-stamps.com which should be up and running as from Wednesday of this week the buyer will be able to choose from the themes and be taken through the step by step guide to complete the purchase.

But there will be conditions attached – no photographs from web sites, magazines or anything that the buyer does not own can be used. In other words you need to have taken it yourself, and furthermore you must have permission from people that appear in your photographs too. Even then the Bureau will have the final say if they feel the photographs are deemed to be inappropriate or in any way offensive.

There are many ways in which YouStamps can be used. If choosing the 'New baby' theme the buyer can use the photograph of their new born baby to for example send on Christening invitations. A 'Greetings' from Gibraltar could even carry one of the Rock's famous apes. Or a special event could be added to the 'Let's celebrate' theme.

On a more serious note businesses could use company logos, product photographs (as long as they have permission to promote the product in question) or business related images. YouStamps will be sold in sheets of 20 and will cost £3.50 each when ordering 20+ sheets to £6 for just one sheet of 'G' value YouStamps. 'E' value YouStamps will cost from £10 each when ordering 20+ copies, to £12.50 when ordering just the one.

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Nelson's View

ROSIA RESIDENTS REASSURED THAT CONTINUED BUILDING WILL NOT DEFEAT THEIR CASE

Rosia residents seeking to halt the Nelson's View project from infringing on what they believe is their right have won assurances from the developer OEM that, if they win their case, construction which continues after October 2 will be levelled back to that date.

The residents had been concerned that adjournment of the case, which has now been set to December 4, would allow OEM to start building upwards and that this could become irreversible.

Meanwhile their case will involve the court hearing argument over whether an order assented to by the Governor amounts to the Crown giving an easement over what was MOD property.

It emerged at a case conference on Friday that complex constitutional and land issues will be raised in which former Chief Secretary Ernest Montado will be a key expert witness. In a curious twist Daniel Feetham, for OEM, and Charles Gomez for the residents came close to engaging in a political discussion on whether the general election, which both of them are contesting, would be grounds for an adjournment. Whilst Mr Gomez argued that it was clearly not, Mr Feetham explained the practical impact the election call had had on his ability to continue acting in the case since he needs to hand over the file to another lawyer. But acting Chief Justice Dudley made clear that the court itself had diary issues to resolve and he was none the wiser as to what arrangements were being made for another judge given 'obvious reasons'.

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Calpe Conference 2007

PREHISTORIC GIBRALTARIANS 'WERE BRIGHT SPARKS'

by Alice Masacarenhas

Through time the theory put forward by most scientists has been that prehistoric man was not as clever or as capable as modern humans. But this notion, the idea of a brute that only caught large mammals, was dispelled yesterday when Dr Geraldine Finlayson of the Gibraltar Museum team demonstrated by using latest data from both Gorham's and Vanguard Cave, that the Neanderthals had the ability to deal with every aspect of their

environment in terms of what they hunted, gathered and ate. A second paper by Professor Clive Finlayson, Director of the Gibraltar Museum, presented new evidence of a connection along the broad geographical belt that once stretched from Gibraltar to China.

It was the opening day of Calpe 2007 which this year is based on the history of interaction of people in the Mediterranean and was officially opened by Heritage Minister Fabian Vinet who recalled often how the eleven editions of the Calpe series had prominently featured the Mediterranean – “not surprisingly given our privileged location”. Not missing an electioneering opportunity in reference to climate change issues he spoke how the GSD Government has created a new bus company making travel free for the elderly and schoolchildren. Now, he announced, the GSD was also committed not only to further increase their hours of operation, but to offer free travel on the public transport system for everyone.

“Perhaps a small, yet significant, example of steps we can and will take, as part of an overall environmental strategy,” he said. He also spoke of the latest issue of new Gibraltar stamps released this week to coincide with the conference, depicting prehistoric landscapes and animals of Gibraltar, to coincide with the conference.

CLEVER AND MORE ABLE

Neanderthals, ate not just large mammals but also rabbits, lots of birds including ducks and partridges Dr Geraldine Finlayson suggested in her presentation pointing that there are lots of remains of eagles and other birds of prey in the caves so the possibility that they were, like native North Americans in historical times, using their large feathers for clothing and/or decoration could not be discarded. The evidence locally suggests they ate tortoises, limpets, mussels, seals, dolphins, pine seeds, all showing that plant matter was part of the diet.

This would have made the Neanderthals all-rounders with large mammals probably only the occasional “feast” items on the menu. But she further suggests that this may not just apply to the last Neanderthals but to even the earliest ones at 120 thousand years ago.

When compared to the later modern humans the evidence reveals there is absolutely no difference in what was being hunted and eaten, and in this respect the paper concludes that moderns and Neanderthals were very similar, and how this demonstrates conclusively that moderns were not superior to Neanderthals in any sense and so they could not have been the cause of the global extinction of the Neanderthals.

“Add to this the fact that there is no evidence anywhere to show that moderns out-competed the Neanderthals and the whole case of modern cause crumbles,” she claimed.

GIB TO CHINA

Professor Clive Finlayson in his paper suggested that the ancestors of the Neanderthals roamed widely across this geographical belt from Gibraltar to China and did very well but as climate began to deteriorate after 2 million years ago the belt was severed and deserts appeared (Sahara, Arabia, Gobi). Through a range of patterns of species of animals that still exist today he showed that when climate was milder before two million years ago this belt was a rich savanna with lots of animals.

“Steppes also entered the picture and gradually the savanna belt became broken into fragments in China and the Mediterranean. So by the time the Neanderthals evolved they were already on the way out! They were the product of this early fragmentation. The rest is history,” he told the conference.

As climate got worse, especially after 120 thousand years ago, the Neanderthals fared worse and worse, and the logical prediction from all this, he said, is that Neanderthals would have survived in the last surviving Eurasian savannahs and that these savannahs would have been where climate was best.

“The prediction would put this place in the extreme south-west of the belt that once stretched from Gibraltar to China. That place ought to be somewhere between Gibraltar and the Algarve. And it was! Not only that, the evidence we have from Gorham’s shows that the Neanderthals here lived in savannahs! It adds another new look at the whole thing – the Gibraltar savannahs were the last relic of a belt that once stretched all the way to China – a sobering thought for climate change sceptics!”

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The FOGHS would like to thank **Cadogan Holidays** for paying the postage of this newsletter.

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