



*"A Moment In Time"*

# Rock Talk

December 2014 Issue No8

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## Editorials

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Another issue, hope you enjoy it! Again, before going any further, the editorial trio welcomes any contribution from any member/non-member – please make life easier for us!!

As we write this, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust is facing some difficulties in its award system, but we are sure that these will be resolved quickly. It is essential that the Trust retains broad support.

On a wider context, there seems to be an increasing degree of concern amongst certain quarters in the local population on the role of the Planning Commission with respect to conserving Gibraltar's environmental and historical heritage. Although it is very encouraging that the present Government is committed to preserving and conserving many aspects of Gibraltar's heritage, there is a growing feeling that this is not always reflected fully, as demonstrated by a number of recent planning decisions. For example, the old Amar Bakery in Engineer's Lane has been demolished, after much representation against this, to give way to another hotel. Former MOD buildings along Europe Road are being replaced by luxury accommodation. The ongoing saga of location for the UEFA funded stadium seems to be going through a period of dormancy – Europa Point is still the preferred location, together with the new University of Gibraltar. Have a look at the 'Around Gibraltar Photographs' in this issue...

Finally, it was great to meet many of you this summer in Kings Chapel – hopefully, Elizabeth and I will be able to come over to London and attend one of your functions – when there is a gap is her canine judging commitments of course! Happy Reading and Festive Season...

– **Brian & Elizabeth Gonzalez**

This issue follows the established format of reporting Society events and including interesting articles about Heritage in Gibraltar, with a few additions to widen its appeal.

We have taken advantage of the excellent presentations at the Annual Seminar to provide readers with further input from the authors, together with picking up on some of the important issues that were discussed.

The 'Around Gibraltar' photographic section proved popular last year, so we have expanded this somewhat to keep members up to date with developments on the Rock.

The society's web presence has been enhanced recently, and the monthly electronic newsletter is a welcome addition to communications. We would welcome feedback on this and on further ways in which we can further inform the membership of heritage issues and Society activities, within the available resource, which is limited and must focus on core activities.

Membership numbers continue to increase, which is very encouraging, and largely down to the initiative of the Membership Secretary (see his section) and the support of Gibraltar House in London.

The Editors would like to reflect on the sad loss of Richard Wells (see obituaries), who was a pillar of the Society, and would like to extend their condolences to Ditte.

It has been an exciting year, and next year promises to be equally enjoyable and full of activities. Please advise the Society of any changes to your personal contact details.

– **Vincent Mifsud**

# Chairman's Letter

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## Dear Friends of Gibraltar,

This is the last introduction that I shall be writing for Rock Talk as your Chairman. After seven and a half years, I shall be standing down at the February AGM and handing over the reins to Adrian Johns, who with his wife Susie will have been known to many of you as an outstandingly popular and successful Governor.

It has been a great privilege to be involved with the Society over what has been an important period in its history. Back in 2006 we had perhaps 300 members – we were not sure exactly how many, as the records were in some disarray – and were losing more members each year than we could recruit. We now have over 500, and the number continues to increase. Partly, perhaps, that is down to the wish of many in this country to show solidarity with Gibraltar in the face of persistent bullying by its large neighbour. But mostly it is because of the hard work and dedication of members, and in particular those who sit (though sit seems hardly the word to describe their energetic activity) on the Executive Committee, the establishment of which in 2007 marked the turning point in the Society's fortunes. It seems invidious to single out individuals when so many of you have put your shoulders to the wheel. But we do owe a special debt to Simon Pack, who as Vice Chairman led the Exec in its early years and who remains a constant source of wise guidance to the Board; to the late Richard Wells, whose lifetime of generous service to Gibraltar, to Britain and to this Society is recorded elsewhere in this issue; to Richard Lord, who first sorted out our chaotic membership and then set about expanding it; and to Janet Whiteley, so long our wonderful Secretary, without whose warmth and enthusiasm the Society would not be what it is. And of course – last but by no means least – to Albert Poggio and his staff at Gibraltar House, without whose magnificent support and hospitality our Society would quite simply not be able to exist. I am profoundly grateful to all of those I have mentioned, and have greatly enjoyed working with them.

As I retire to the Society's back benches as an ordinary member, I would like to wish it many more years of success, of growth and of service to the links that bind the Rock and the United Kingdom together. And I hope that Adrian Johns enjoys it all as much as I have.

*Sir Francis Richards*

## Dear Friends of Gibraltar,

Our 4 years on the Rock proved to be a life-changing experience for my wife, Suzie, and me, so we were both genuinely delighted when Francis Richards suggested that I might consider taking over from him as Chairman of the Friends. The opportunity to continue our association with Gibraltar on a more formal basis was too good to pass up and so I accepted the invitation with alacrity and much pleasure.

My time as Governor gave me a great insight into the work of the Friends and its importance not only in promoting Gibraltar's heritage but also in increasing the breadth and depth of Gibraltar's profile in the UK. I see this latter point as a particularly important role for the Friends in the context of the difficult cross-border relationship of the last few years. We shouldn't be diffident about spreading the word, exerting influence, and making sure the facts are made clear.

The Society has come on strongly in recent years under Francis Richards's guidance and leadership and I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the signal contribution that he has made during more than 7 years in the chair. His will be a hard act to follow but I am delighted to have the chance to take the reins. Suzie and I look forward to renewing our acquaintance with the Friends and to working with you all to promote Gibraltar's interests in the widest sense.

*Sir Adrian Johns*



# Obituary

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## Richard Herbert Stephen Wells CBE 1943-2014

*Richard Wells, academic, linguist, successful civil servant, family man of great thoughtfulness and generosity of spirit, and much admired Friend of Gibraltar who died on 24 July 2014 aged 70*

### Early Years

Richard Wells was born in London in 1943 within the sound of Bow Bells. Beyond the clear evidence of his burgeoning academic ability as a child, and the enjoyment he derived from travelling with his father in France, his early years were relatively unremarkable; but, together, they gave vent to an extraordinarily enquiring mind, and set the scene for a career of high achievement in the Civil Service.

### The Scholar



Richard entered Winchester College as a scholar in 1956 and was accepted into Trinity College Cambridge at the age of eighteen to read mathematics where, within his first two years, he completed the famously difficult Mathematics Tripos achieving both a *first* and the title of Senior Wrangler – an honour awarded annually to the top mathematics undergraduate. Later, and to fill his time as an undergraduate, he gained a degree in economics, and developed an interest in political affairs. Fluent in Spanish, he became an active member of the Spanish Dramatic Society; and during university vacations he boosted his resources as a bus conductor in London. Unsurprisingly, and for the rest of his life, buses became a much loved means of transport, and how charming it was that later (1966) he and his future wife, Ditte, should meet as passengers on ..... a London bus! She was instantly attracted to this “tall, handsome, engaging and intelligent man with an enthusiasm for almost anything bar literature, art and television” - they were married in 1970. It should be said that Richard’s other love, of mathematics, also endured to

the last. He became a member of the London Mathematical Society, attending its conferences and contributing to its journals; winning and setting maths problems for the Magpie magazine.

### Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

Richard left university in 1965 and joined the Board of Trade (later DTI) where he served both in London and overseas for the rest of his professional life. Apart from his great intellect, he had intense focus and power of concentration and, through a natural sense of curiosity, his mind was constantly in search of problems and workable solutions. He had a wide interest in countries and their peoples and he travelled widely throughout Europe, as well as to Brazil, Egypt, Israel, Australia, Japan and Mexico. Over the years he became fluent in ten languages (French, German, Spanish, Italian, Dutch, Portuguese, Danish, Greek and Malay). His professional achievements were many over the years, but perhaps the two most notable were his years in the European Commission in Brussels (1972-77) where he was responsible for regional policies funding; and from 1987-1997 when, based in London, he took charge of official Whitehall work on European funds. Richard’s award of CBE in 1993 came as no surprise to all those who were lucky enough to work with him.

### Gibraltar

Richard’s association with Gibraltar first began in 1962 when he landed in Gibraltar from the Algeciras ferry. The Rock attracted him at once, and on many occasions he went back there on holiday. When

leading for the DTI on European funding in 1987, he was saddened to see that Gibraltar was receiving nothing. Gibraltar had joined the EEC in 1973 and certainly had its share of economic development needs. So from his position in London he started a process of ensuring that Gibraltar received its fair share of European money.

By coincidence, at about this time, there happened to be a special scheme of European grants (called *Renaval*) reserved for areas which had lost jobs in shipbuilding or ship repair. This seemed tailor-made to suit Gibraltar, so he rapidly prepared what seemed to him an unanswerable case. Brussels took a different view without giving any reasons. But it was not in Richard's nature to be diverted from a legitimate course, so in 1990 he began by slipping through to Gibraltar a trickle of European grants for vocational training. Then he engineered the first big grant, nearly £2M, which contributed half the cost of the European business centre giving the Rock some fine modern business premises.

Next came the first grants for places which had lost defence-related jobs (*Konver*), so again it ought to fit Gibraltar like a glove. Mindful of the disappointment of *Renaval*, this time Richard ensured that he would have a hand in drawing up the rules of eligibility for the scheme; and given that the DTI was now able to choose the British areas to benefit, he ensured that London chose Gibraltar. And so in December 1993 he acquired *Konver* grants for Gibraltar eventually building up to a total of £3M, some of which were allocated to restoring heritage sites on the Upper Rock.

However, all the rest of Europe was enjoying programmes of grant which did not involve continual new applications to Brussels. Richard was determined that Gibraltar would be part of this programme too! Thus, in the re-negotiation of the rules for regular grant programmes in Brussels in 1993, Richard was able to ensure that this time nothing in the procedure or the small print enabled Gibraltar to be disqualified. On 20 January 1994 his elaborately prepared case for a 3-year programme of grants for the Rock passed through its last hoops in Brussels with Gibraltar being awarded some £7.25M. Gibraltar was at last assured of European aid on better terms than almost any part of Britain itself. The grant programme was renewed for another 3 years from 1997-1999, and by the time Richard left the DTI in 1997, he and his team had won, over 7 years, agreement to a total of £20M of grants for Gibraltar. The choice of projects and administration of the grants rested, of course, with the Government of Gibraltar and its civil servants who picked up the Euro-complexities of the work with such agility. But it is very good to know that Richard's determination, guiding hand and sense of fair play lay behind so many Euro-funded projects including the beautification of Main Street, the removal of the water catchments, the construction of the new cruise-liner terminal, the re-development of Casemates, the re-equipment of St Michael's Cave, the conversions of Bleak House and Lathbury Barracks, and the work on the Theatre Royal. There were others. Gibraltar was indeed blessed that day in 1962 when a young man stepped off the Algeciras ferry and decided that Gibraltar was a place really worth caring about.

### **Wider Interests**

Retirement enabled Richard to pursue his many other interests – and he did so with vigour. He was a member of the London Topographical Society where, to assist the study and appreciation of his much loved capital, he was involved in the publication of books and sheet material illustrating the history, growth and topography of London of all periods. He exercised his wide interest in world affairs through frequent attendance at Chatham House whose mission of helping to build a secure, prosperous and just world appealed to his inherent sense of fair play, and where its authoritative analysis and up-to-date commentary on current topics appealed to his intellect and eye for detail and fed his enquiring mind. He was a fellow of the London Zoo; and as a member of the London Library he made frequent trips to St James's Square to read and research his latest intrigue. He was a Friend of St Helena, and was an active member of, and very generous host at the Oxford and Cambridge Club whose learned and stylish environment he so enjoyed.

### **Friends of Gibraltar**

It is against this remarkable background of achievement that, in 1999, Richard joined the Board of the Friends of Gibraltar where he became as indispensable to the work of the Friends as he had been to the British Government. The Board and its Executive Committee (of which he became both Secretary and Chairman) quickly became the beneficiary of his knowledge, judgement and meticulous planning; and the flourishing state of the Society today is in large part due to his dedication, direction and friendship. He is missed greatly by all who knew him, but the memory of all that he stood for and achieved will live on within the Society for many years to come.

# Diary of Society Events for 2015\_\_\_\_\_

## **Annual General Meeting of Members**

The Friends of Gibraltar AGM is being held at **Gibraltar House, 150 Strand, London, WC2R 1JA** on **Monday 9th February 2015** commencing at 5.30pm.

Please confirm your attendance to:

Caroline Prentice: [caroline.prentice@gibraltar.gov.uk](mailto:caroline.prentice@gibraltar.gov.uk)

Tricia Johnson: [tricia@johnson3602.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tricia@johnson3602.fsnet.co.uk)

For those attending the reception afterwards there will be a charge of £12.00 for members and £14.00 for non-members. Please send cheques directly FAO Caroline Prentice at the above address for Gibraltar House or by Bank Transfer to the Friends of Gibraltar account number - 0031 0844 at Lloyds, sort code 30-93-74 - stating "**AGM Reception**".

## **Professional Networking in London - Thursday 29 January**

A reminder that Tim Lawson-Cruttenden is hosting drinks for young and up-and-coming active professionals in London on 29 January 2015 at 11 Grays Inn Square from 6pm.

This is open to potential new members as well as current members in a bid to encourage membership and participation from a new generation and is looking to become a regular event for professionals and young members in the City. Wine and snacks will be provided.

Space is limited. Contact Tim Lawson Cruttenden ([tim@lawson-cruttenden.co.uk](mailto:tim@lawson-cruttenden.co.uk)) or Nick Vasquez ([nickvas@hotmail.com](mailto:nickvas@hotmail.com)) to reserve a place or for further information.

## **Friends Annual Visit to Gibraltar – 8–13th June 2015**

Dates are now confirmed, however the week's programme is at the early stages of planning. Visits should include – Gibraltar Heritage Trust offices, Lunch at Royal Gibraltar Yacht Club, historic talk and visit to Sacarello's Coffee Shop, Queens Birthday Parade at Casemates. Additional suggestions which have come forward for 2015 include a half day Rock and Cave Tour and a dolphin trip. Other suggestions are welcome at this stage to Janet who organises this annual visit.

Email: [janet.stockbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:janet.stockbridge@btinternet.com) – Tel 01264 811101 or 0780 194 8036

All Friends make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation; it is recommended that this is carried out as soon as possible with your airline provider to get the best rates. Most of the group still continue to prefer to stay at the colonial style Rock Hotel, despite refurbishment taking place. Other choices include The Sunborn Gibraltar floating hotel at Marina Bay, The O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel, centrally located. The Bristol a 3 star hotel, or The Caleta Hotel located at Catalan Bay. You may wish to check out [MyGibraltar.co.uk](http://MyGibraltar.co.uk) for rates and bookings.

## **2015 Seminar and Dinner**

Dates for your diaries - provisional date for the 2015 Seminar and Dinner is Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

**Other Events** – will be notified to the membership through the monthly newsletter wherever possible.

# Society Grants in support of Heritage Projects\_\_\_\_\_

Our stable of projects currently consists of the following:

## **Rock Model**

The Board has agreed that the scheme to refurbish the model and its plinth and to re-site in the Palace of Westminster is entirely in keeping with our remit – and recommended that the project be treated as a priority. As it has been sometime since the contractor submitted their recommendations and costings, contact will be re-establishing contact and an updated quotation obtained. A further update will be shared with the membership through the monthly e-bulletins in due course.

## **Trafalgar Cemetery Display Boards**

Following hectic activity the past in Quarter 3 of 2014, the three stands are now sited at strategic points within Trafalgar Cemetery and have been installed. Sterling work by Richard Lord out in Gibraltar got a small brass plate inscribed to the memory of Richard Wells and had it attached to one of the Display Stands – this seemed a fitting tribute to RHSV as the Trafalgar Cemetery Display Boards was the last project on which he worked. An update from the GHT was shared at the Annual Seminar.

## **Railway Track Project**

The length of original track and the carriages have now been refurbished by GHT but await a permanent site. Although raised early in the year, there has been no further approach from GHT for the Friends to become involved and to provide financial support, although we have remained closely sighted on its progress. An

informal suggestion from GHT is that the Friends might like to consider the purchase of an original locomotive. The cost is likely to be in the region of £15,000 (or more) depending on its condition and location. The Society will consider this, but concern has been raised as the purchase of such an item could be complicated and contain a lot of expensive hidden costs, such as taking possession of it, temporary storage, shipping out to Gibraltar, insurance and its refurbishment. In addition, the GHT might not be in a position to refurbish it immediately, so it might end up in storage for a long time.

### **Oral History Archive**

Albert Poggio has approached a leading media company, Maverick ([www.mavad.co.uk](http://www.mavad.co.uk)), that has been involved in producing the 'Gibraltar Eye' and a short documentary marking the 75 year anniversary of the Evacuation. It is proposed to use Maverick to place the OH Archive on-line. It might also be possible to work with them and GBC to produce a series of community engagement programmes encouraging residents out in Gibraltar to contribute further to the Archive. In addition there is a proposal to include IWM and perhaps stage a further social event in London. Discussions with Maverick are still at a very early stage and would require HMGOG approval and funding. ExCo and the Board will be advised when there is progress to report, which will then be relayed to members.

### **RGR Gun Refurbishment**

The Friends are discussing ways in which funds could be used to support the refurbishment of artillery for external display as part of the proposed Royal Gibraltar Regiment museum. Currently a 25 pounder and Bofors are under consideration.

## Reports of Events

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### **Friends' Visit to Gibraltar 2014** *by Janet Whiteley and Tim Gowing*

Another successful visit to Gibraltar in June 2014 was enjoyed by over 40 of the Friends. A mixed and varied official programme commenced on the Monday and ran through until the Friday. Many Friends arrived several days previously and met at the poolside of the Rock Hotel on the Sunday evening, where Janet Whiteley outlined the plans for the week ahead. Monday, GHT welcomed the Friends over coffee to the newly refurbished offices at the Main Guard. They explained the offices were due to be officially open at the end of the week by the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo. This was followed by a guided visit to St Andrew's Church, on Governors Parade, and private lunch was enjoyed in the afternoon at the Royal Gibraltar Yacht club, facilitated by Judge John Tanzer. In the evening the Friends were guests at a 'drinks and tapas' party at the poolside Rock Hotel in memory of our late President Joe Gaggero.

Tuesday morning at Catalan Bay, Manolo Bonfiglio, gave an interesting perspective of the surrounding area, followed by lunch which was taken locally. In the afternoon, an informative and interesting presentation was given at John Mackintosh Hall on Gibraltar's World Heritage bid, by Professor Clive Finlayson, from the Gibraltar Museum and leading for the Gibraltar Government on this major project.

On Wednesday morning we assembled at



*The Friends meet on the Sunday evening, poolside*



*Janet Whiteley introduces the visit...*

Customs House at Waterport, and met by Colin McHard where we were treated to a detailed and enlightening presentation, on the challenges HM Customs face 24/7 in Gibraltar and British Territorial Waters in the Strait. All who attended found this particularly fascinating and were encouraged by the precautions and dedication of all staff involved. Later in the afternoon a presentation in the Tower Conference Room was given by the CBF, Commodore John Clink, followed by a very pleasant Drinks and Tapas reception, kindly facilitated by Richard Lord our Membership Secretary. Note - Since our visit, Commodore Clink has recently been promoted to Rear Admiral on August 2014, now based in Scotland



*The group being briefed by the Oliver Six, General Manager of the Sunborn floating hotel*

Thursday morning, many Friends enjoyed the guided tour to the new luxury deluxe Sunborn floating hotel ship, sited at Marina Bay. Some Friends then took the opportunity to relax afterward at the local restaurant, Bianca's before the annual ceremonial Queen's Birthday Parade at Casemates later in the afternoon. Always a spectacle and a pleasure for the Friends to attend this event, complimentary tickets for seating were kindly arranged by David Seed and our grateful thanks must be recorded to him.



*Catalan Bay Village visit – much enjoyed*

Friday morning, a visit to the world famous and newly refurbished Law Courts, where Hazel Combo, gave a fascinating account of the historical activities which had taken place in the Courts over the decades. This was followed by a short service taken by Reverend Mark Jackson at The King's Chapel (adjacent to the Governor's residence). HE Sir James Dutton and Lady Dutton, then joined our party in the quadrangle for farewell thanks and refreshments. An excellent light lunch, provided by Jean Perry and her volunteers was taken in an adjoining room to the Kings Chapel.



*A rest from the sun in the Church at Catalan Bay*

***The welcome as always was wonderful, and the weather was stunning. This concluded a wonderful visit, which will live long in the memories of all who attended. Our grateful thanks to Janet Whiteley, Richard Lord, and John Tanzer. In Gibraltar - Richard Labrador, George Russo, and David Seed, GHT, and all who made our visit so very memorable.***

**Friends of Gibraltar visit June 2014 – views from a new participant (TG)**

This was our first time in Gibraltar as part of the annual Group visit. The friendliness of those organising the visits and members participating was outstanding.

Having lived on the Rock for eleven years and my parents for twenty I was amazed at the amount of building particularly on reclaimed land that has taken place. Of particular interest was meeting Jennifer Ballantine, Director of the Garrison Library, an institution I spent many an hour at in the 50s.

The current Commissioner of Police invited us to visit the station at New Mole and there I was able to see my late father’s photo of his time as the first Commissioner (the title had been Chief of Police for a century!) from 1937 to 1953. Subjects discussed included smuggling and I recall my father telling me that one December when flocks of turkeys were herded across the frontier into Gib, an impatient motorist sounded his horn whereupon the turkeys raised their wings to reveal tobacco lining their sides!

When my parents departed the Rock on their return to the UK the Governor of the Campo region provided a Spanish Police escort to the end of his area! Imagine that happening now!

When the Netherlands beat Spain in the World Cup we were leaving a restaurant in Ocean Village when we heard a great cheer go up reverberating all over town! What a farewell!



*Presentation on Gibraltar Customs Service*



*Commodore Clink, CBF, briefing members*



*Relaxing at Bianca’s restaurant on the Thursday...*



*A briefing on the operation of the Law Courts*

# The FOGs visit to the Historic Dockyard Chatham – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2014

*by Tricia Johnson*

Many of those who attended the visit to the Historic Dockyard Chatham were wondering what the day held in store for them, having never been there before, and because, having had wonderful weather up until that day, the weather was cloudy and a little chilly. However, reassurance was given by one member of the party who had visited on several occasions and said that it takes more than the few hours we had to see every exhibit within the Dockyard. All members attending had arrived and been checked in by 11.00 hours, they were then free to explore the exhibits as they wished.

The choice of venue was very good with Chatham's 'Salute to the 40s' providing a wonderful atmosphere. Many of the visitors were dressed in 40s style clothing as well as the exhibitors on the day creating what would have been familiar scenes during the forties. (see photographs below). There was so much to see, naval craft from the past such as HMS Gannet 1878, HMS Cavalier 1944, HM Submarine Ocelot 1962 – the last warship to be built at Chatham and in the museum where maritime treasures were on display. One of the main attractions for the group was the rope making in the Victorian Ropery; this still continues today and whilst we were able to see a rope making demonstration the actual Ropery can be seen in action during the week. For further information about the Historic Dockyard Chatham, see the website <http://www.thedockyard.co.uk/>

We all left the Dockyard about 13.00 hours in order to attend the luncheon which was also most enjoyable and enhanced by Richard Lord suggesting we all introduce ourselves to one another during a short resume of the event at the end of the meal. There were several new members of FOGs present thus the introductions were very valuable. Conversations had been flowing throughout the meal and apart from a few who had to leave immediately after the meal many were sat chatting whilst others returned to the Dockyard to continue the tour.

The Commissioners House (1704) provided the setting for afternoon tea, 40s style and for stands displaying memorabilia. It was here that a small group from FOGs learned of the effects of the closure of the dockyard in 1984 upon the workers and their families. The times were very hard



*Fig 1: 1940's RAF vehicle*



*Fig 2: FOGS members beside Hurricane*



*Fig 3: The Victorian Ropery*

although some took employment in dockyards in other parts of the country. The guide speaking to this small group was the wife of one of the dockyard workers who remained in Chatham, therefore, she spoke from personal experience. It was very humbling to hear of the experience.

All FOGs members present appeared to have thoroughly enjoyed the day out in Chatham which we said was way above our expectations. It was very informative and great fun, with many stating that they would like to return, especially as the tickets could be upgraded to last for future visits during the year.

*Editor's Note: Our thanks to those involved in organising this exciting and very successful event, led by Prof Charles Ramirez. Tricia's report summarises the day for those who were unable to attend. It is never easy to administer these visits, as there are many threads to track at the same time. Volunteers to assist in future visits are welcome!*



Fig 4: The Desert Rats



Fig 5: Model of HMS Chatham



Fig : 40's re-enactment Chatham 2014

# Annual Seminar and Dinner – Winchester

## 25<sup>th</sup> October *by Janet Whiteley and Vincent Mifsud*

The Annual Seminar and Dinner was held in Winchester on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October. The Society's Board met in the morning, followed by a very positive joint liaison session with representatives of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust to review the opportunities to support projects on the Rock. A report on current projects and forthcoming opportunities is included elsewhere in this issue. A busy seminar agenda provided an excellent afternoon, and generated significant discussion and comment. Presentations were given on:

- The evolution of Gibraltar's currency leading to the first issue of banknotes in 1914, by Dr Richard Garcia MBE (reported separately as an article in this issue)
- Gibraltar's UNESCO World Heritage bid, by Prof Clive and Dr Geraldine Finlayson (also reported separately)
- A review of annual activities of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, delivered by Mrs Claire Montado and Mr Michael Smith
- A report from the Directors of the Society, delivered by the Chairman, Sir Francis Richards

An encouraging turnout of members of the Society at the Winchester Wessex Hotel provided the audience for a lively session based on these presentations. Our Chairman, Sir Francis Richards, introduced the Seminar with a warm welcome to both the audience and invited speakers. He thanked the organisers for their efforts in putting together the event, and reminded the members that there is an opportunity to contribute to this and other Society events through volunteering to help with the administration, or indeed by taking ownership of an event. Additional support is required if the Society is to maintain and develop its activities, and the Executive Committee will be looking for support for its updated organisation. He then introduced the first speaker. Dr Richard Garcia needs no introduction to the membership, as he has been a strong supporter of the Society for many years, both during his service in the Gibraltar Civil Service, and since his retirement. His presentations in previous seminars have always generated interest and been well received, and the audience eagerly awaited his talk on Gibraltar's currency. He did not disappoint, and a lively discussion followed his presentation, which introduced many aspects of the political and financial climate on the Rock in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that were new to much of the audience. Questions clarified the relative position of the peseta and pound sterling over the period, and emphasised the complex nature of multiple currencies and legality. Richard has written a separate article in this issue to summarise his talk for the general membership.



*Fig 1: Members gathered for the presentations*



*Fig 2: Presenters conferring...*



*Fig 3: The Garcias enjoying the afternoon*

The exciting challenges of submitting a bid to the UNESCO World Heritage selection process was eloquently described by Professor Clive Finlayson. The development of ideas as the proposal was being firmed up was described, and the background and current status of the bid is covered in a separate article in this issue. The extension of the scope of the bid was discussed, and the potential to protect a more extended area to preserve the heritage of the region was presented to the membership. The advantages and potential issues associated with the granting of this status were clearly stated, and the balance required was outlined. The enthusiasm of both Clive and Geraldine for this project came across very strongly, and the audience expressed strong support for the initiative, though it is accepted that the process is complex and challenging. In conclusion, the Chairman indicated that the Society would monitor progress with keen interest, and that Professor Finlayson should feel free to ask for support if appropriate.

Mrs Claire Montado then briefed the membership on the activities of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. Claire emphasised the excellent progress that had been made on the restoration of the Main Guard, and showed several pictures of the refurbishment, which the Society has supported through a grant. This centre for the Trust was opened last June by the Chief Minister, the Hon Fabian Picardo, and will form a firm basis for the future work of the organisation. The importance of the work of the Trust in supporting heritage activities on the Rock came through very clearly in the presentation, as did the strong working relationship with the Government of Gibraltar to ensure that appropriate allocation of tasks and comment on proposed developments was incorporated in the planning activities. The various core activities of the Trust in ensuring that the effort of volunteers in maintaining historical sites on the Rock were also described, and significant successes were indicated. The work on the Trafalgar Cemetery has also been supported by the Society, and encouraging progress has been made recently. Claire reminded the membership of the web site for the Trust ([www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi](http://www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi)), which provides more detail on these and other projects, and of the monthly GHT News e-bulletins that would allow members to keep in touch with developments in heritage on the Rock as they happen. The audience raised some questions on the pace of development on the reclaimed ground on the West side, and if this would impact the Old Town area. This led to clarification of the consultation process to ensure that heritage issues were considered in planning decisions, and the need to achieve a suitable balance within the constraints of the available land area. A presentation by Michael Smith on a ground breaking IT project to map the heritage and history of Gibraltar for on-line access illustrated the benefit of modern technology in supporting heritage activities. Whilst this is still in its early days, encouraging progress has been made, and Michael was able to demonstrate the potential of this



*Fig 3: The GHT contingent*



*Peter Abraham and Neil Norfolk in deep discussion*



*Another cheerful group...*

approach. We look forward to future updates on this exciting development.

The Chairman led a session that covered the activities of the Society, and the encouraging development in membership numbers and in attendance at events such as this annual seminar and dinner. He indicated that he was very encouraged by the number of new faces, and that he hoped that everyone had enjoyed the formal presentations as much as he. Sir Francis thanked the members of the Board and ExCo for their continued support, and he handed over to Richard Lord for an update on initiatives to increase membership (a separate note is provided elsewhere in this issue). The members present were updated on the status of the Oral History project (reported in the last issue of Rock Talk), which had been taken to a successful conclusion and would be recorded in museums both in Gibraltar and in the UK. Access could be provided to researchers to use this excellent work in further studies. The Chairman then invited members to adjourn to the King's Lounge Bar for drinks in advance of the Society Dinner. A well-attended Annual Dinner which included our President Baroness Hooper, completed the day's activities. The Hotel provided a very enjoyable meal, and the membership took the opportunity to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. There was lively conversation around the afternoon's presentations, and ranged to broader subjects as all took advantage of the opportunity to exchange news and generally catch up on the past year. A number of suggestions for future activities were raised with members of the ExCo, and these and others will be taken up as appropriate. The general mood reflected



*Members gathered for the dinner*

satisfaction at an excellent event, indicating a healthy society making the most of the resources at its disposal. All involved in the administration of this very successful event are thanked for their outstanding contribution, led by the organiser Janet Whiteley

## NEW GIBRALTARIAN INSPIRED COOKBOOK

On October 2014 a new Gibraltarian recipes cookbook went on sale both locally and online. Justin Bautista, creator of Gibraltar's recipe website, [mamalotties.com](http://mamalotties.com), published a Gibraltarian inspired cookbook with selected recipes; both local, as well as some exclusive family recipes not found on the website. The cookbook will be available at local bookshops Gibraltar Bookshops, Gibraltar House and can also be purchased online at [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk).

The 160-page cookbook shares locally inspired recipes with a brief introduction to some of the commonly known dishes. "Being such a small place, Gibraltar's food culture is under-appreciated so I wanted to have something that could be shared with any generation. Recipes are ever changing and Gibraltar's recipes are no exception, the food is very similar to that of Italian, Spanish and Maltese cuisine but I wanted to have something that was ours and something that showed the world, *'this is Gibraltarian cuisine, come and try it!'* Who knows, there could soon be a Gibraltarian food revolution on the way."

The book will have recipes such as Rolitos, Menestra, Torta de Acelga, Pollo al Ajillo and, of

*Mamalotties.com* has published a Gibraltarian inspired cookbook featuring recipes from the local public as well as exclusive recipes just for the book.



course, Gibraltar's famous Calentita.

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/mamalotties](http://www.facebook.com/mamalotties)

# Christmas Party 2014 *by Vincent Mifsud*

A very enjoyable Society Christmas Party was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December at the RAF Club in London. This was the first time that the venue had been used for such an event, and it proved to be both very popular, with many new faces attending, and very appropriate for such a party. It is always a challenge to find a suitable and cost effective location, and the members and staff of the RAF Club are thanked for their assistance, and for allowing us to use their facilities.

The party was supported by members of all ages, and it was a great pleasure to note the attendance of the Albert Poggio, who came hotfoot from international discussions in the Foreign Office, accompanied by his core supporting staff. The group had to leave promptly to continue the negotiations, as most of the British Overseas Territories leadership had to continue discussions to agree the final communique.

The event followed the usual format; the canapés were excellent and accompanied a wide selection of drinks to help those attending raise the Christmas spirit! It was an excellent start to December and run up to the Festive Season. Some members took advantage of the accommodation offered by the Club to do some Christmas shopping on the following day. All are reminded that the Club membership is open to all who have served or can demonstrate a connection with the Royal Air Force.

Tricia Johnson was instrumental in the administration and organisation of the event, following Tim Lawson-Cruttenden's initial guidance and support on the night – both are profusely thanked for their efforts! It was a memorable event.

We hope that all members have a very Happy Christmas, and that 2015 proves to be a prosperous year for all. Please continue to support Society events – and feel free to volunteer to assist if possible!



*Members at the event in the RAF Club*



*Albert explaining his approach to the negotiations*



*Suzanne Tanzer and Maud Page Croft*



*Happy members!*



*Tim in full flow*

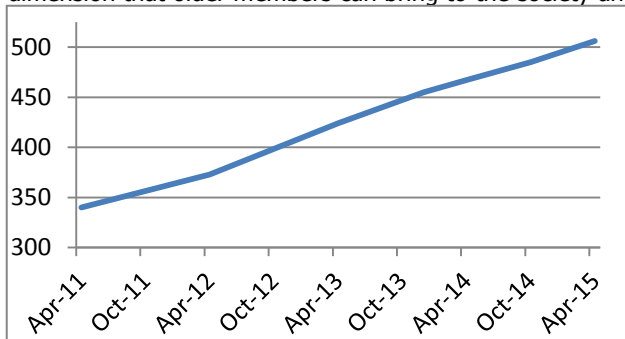


*Stalwart members of the Society, Janet and Simon*

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S JOTTINGS

### Over 500 Club!

I am delighted to report that we passed through the 500 members threshold over Christmas – the initiatives we included in our new bi-monthly newsletter helped generate the necessary additional numbers. The Family Membership scheme is progressing well. (5 for the price of 4 when paying by Bankers Orders and entitled to Gift Aid). Please consider this to help us build up our younger membership. Also I am delighted to report that 9 members over 80 have taken advantage of the new free life membership. We much appreciate the historical dimension that older members can bring to the society and fully recognise their difficulty in attending events. We



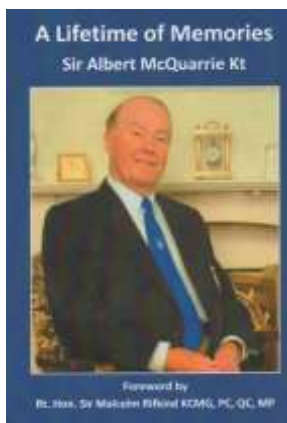
think we have now identified our oldest member at 97! We have had 53 new Members since Apr 14. We always welcome new ideas from our Membership.

### Membership List

We have included again the most recent Membership List. A few Members have take advantage of me forwarding e-mails to those they had lost contact with. Don't forget that if your entry is not as you would wish then please let me know.

### Communication

Having been asked whether there might be more regular information about previous events and future ones, and also other items of interest, a new bi-monthly newsletter is being sent out. If you have not received an e-mail version or a posted one (if you do not have an e mail address) then let one of our Board or me know. From our end of the telescope, unless e-mails are returned undelivered then we do not know whether they get through. E-mails are changed more frequently than home addresses – please keep us up to date.



### **"A Lifetime of Memories"**

Sir Albert McQuarrie has contacted me to say that he will donate £5 to the Friends from the sale (£15) of any copies of his book to members. Please let Sir Albert know if you would like a copy (01771 623955). This is a fascinating book, especially the chapters relating directly to Gibraltar. If you wish us to communicate to members matters that would be of benefit to them please let me know. You could also ask for charity fundraising events related to Gibraltar to be included in our Newsletter.

### **Gift Aid**

Members' addresses are now required as part of the gift aid claim. (It used to be names only). If your personal circumstances have changed, and you no longer pay income or capital gains tax to cover your subscription, then please let me know. The next claim will be in May 15 for the period Apr 14 to Mar 15. Last year our claim raised a most useful £1,251.80.

### **E Mail Addresses**

I know e-mail is not for everyone but it speeds up communication and reduces administrative work and postage. If you have a family member who might receive e-mails on your behalf then please let me know. Also let me know if you change your e-mail address. It is best to cancel the old one.



### **Ties**

Sales continue of our very popular tie. If you would like one the price is £23 (P&P included). I can bring one to an event if you prefer and save postage. They are very popular as a present. Should ladies feel they would like a scarf then a design could be proposed. The problem to date is that likely sales are not expected to meet the minimum order quantity. We could consider a design for a brooch if ladies would like this to be investigated. Please let me know.

### **Feedback**

We are always grateful for feedback on any issue affecting our Society. If you send one to me as your Membership Secretary then I can assure you that your Executive Committee will address it. This is your Society.

### **Contact Details:**

Commodore Richard Lord CBE MSc  
Church Cottage, 4 Kingsbury Square WILTON SP2 0BA  
richard.lord2@btinternet.com  
01722 743173



## **Gibraltar: Currency and War**

by Richard Garcia MBE

The following is a summary of the paper delivered by me at the recent meeting of the Friends of Gibraltar held at Winchester on 25 October 2014. The paper gave an account of the two largest upheavals in Gibraltar's currency, which were indirect consequences of war.

After years of upheaval, a stable currency was finally established in Gibraltar on 21 February 1872, when a Currency Order in Council provided that the currency for Gibraltar would be Spanish currency. The basis of the currency was the gold Doubloon of Queen Isabel II of Spain. The Doubloon was worth 5 Spanish dollars, and each dollar was worth 20 reales de vellon. There were 8 quarts in a real. One quart was approximately the equivalent of one penny.

A further Order in Council of 2 May 1881 updated Gibraltar's currency and brought it in line with changes introduced in Spain consequent on the introduction of the peseta which was subdivided into 100 centimos. The basis of the currency was now the gold Alfonso, which was worth 25 pesetas or 5 Spanish dollars. Each dollar was now worth 5 pesetas. The gold Alfonso was worth slightly less than the pound sterling: the official exchange rate was 25 pesetas and 22 centimos to £1. 10 centimos were now the approximate equivalent of one penny.

After a number of years of stability, problems surfaced in Spain in 1896 stemming from financial difficulties. The pound was now worth 30 pesetas. Spain ceased to mint gold coins. Silver coins were the basis of the currency,

and Spanish banknotes which were widely accepted in Spain but were not legal tender in Gibraltar.

Matters deteriorated and came to a head on 25 April 1898 when Spain declared war on the USA over its Cuban possessions. There was panic in Spain. Businesses and individuals alike lost confidence in Spanish banknotes and rushed to banks to exchange them for silver coin. The Spanish Government had difficulty in procuring sufficient silver coin to redeem the banknotes. In May 1898, an export ban on Spanish silver coin was introduced by the Spanish Government.

The ban coincided with the arrival in Gibraltar of Sir Ralph Thompson, a retired Under Secretary of War, who was tasked by the British Government to enquire into and make recommendations with respect to Gibraltar's currency.

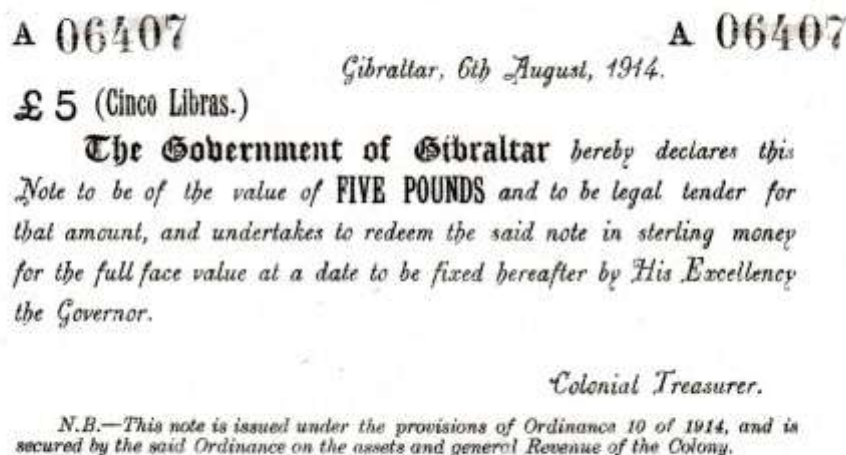
Given the export ban on Spanish silver coin, and the desire of the merchants' representative bodies that Gibraltar should adopt sterling currency, a change in currency was a foregone conclusion. It was not possible to maintain a currency in Gibraltar based on a coinage that could not legally be replenished. Sir Ralph Thompson's recommendations were accepted that Gibraltar should adopt sterling currency and that the business community should determine how it would handle Spanish coin once it ceased to be legal tender in Gibraltar.

On 1 October 1898, Gibraltar adopted sterling currency as its sole legal tender. However, the peseta continued to circulate in Gibraltar, and for many - particularly working class people - it remained the currency of choice. The peseta, indeed, continued to circulate in Gibraltar until the time of the Spanish Civil War, when the Nationalist Government of Franco demonetised the banknotes of the old Republican Government.

The next crisis affecting Gibraltar's currency occurred 16 years later, in July 1914. It was clear that Britain was going to declare war on Germany. On 30 July, the port and harbour of Gibraltar and Catalan Bay were placed on a war footing. The telegraph service was suspended on 2 August, and as a concession only those telegrams written in plain English or French were accepted at the sender's risk and subject to British censorship. The Gibraltarians were greatly concerned that the civilian population would be evacuated. (In the event this did not happen then, but it did occur in World War II.)

Businesses insisted on being paid in cash for all transactions. People rushed to the Anglo Egyptian Bank (the forerunner of Barclays) and to the Post Office Savings Bank in order to withdraw the totality of their savings. The requests for withdrawals exceeded the amount of money held by the banks. Fortunately, several days notice of a withdrawal had to be given to the banks.

On 4 August, Governor Sir Herbert Miles who had been away from Gibraltar on his summer holidays arrived back in Gibraltar. He had cut short his vacation. He immediately took control. He telegraphed to London and asked for an emergency loan of £100,000 to meet the requests for withdrawals from banks. The answer came back swiftly, in the negative. At 11.00 p.m. on 4 August, Britain declared war on Germany.



*A legal tender note for "Cinco Libras"*

Sir Herbert Miles and his advisers met next day. He decided that the only solution to Gibraltar's financial crisis was to print and issue banknotes. He instructed the Attorney General to draft legislation to make bank notes issued by the Government of Gibraltar legal tender. He then summoned Mr Beanland, a printer and stationer, and asked him to prepare designs for 5 denominations of banknotes. The Governor approved the proofs by 6.30

p.m., when he met with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants Exchange Committee to explain his decision to print banknotes. The merchants unanimously approved the measure.

Sir Herbert Miles signed the Bank Note Ordinance into law on the evening of 5 August. It was published in an Extraordinary Gazette. In the meanwhile, Mr Beanland was proceeding with printing 104,600 banknotes, with a total face value of £89,900. The banknotes were delivered that night to the Treasurer, A.C.Greenwood, who had to sign each note in original! The only notes he did not sign were those that were overprinted SPECIMEN.



*A Two shilling note, unfortunately cancelled...*

Next morning, 6 August 1914, at 10.00 a.m., the new banknotes were issued by the Treasury to the Anglo-Egyptian Bank and through them to the Savings Bank. The banknotes were immediately taken up by the public. The crisis had been averted.

There were 5 denominations of banknotes of the provisional issue of 6 August 1914: 2 shillings, 10 shillings, one pound, five pounds and fifty pounds. They were replaced in due course by more sophisticated notes produced by De La Rue, the English security printers. The provisional series of notes carried the serial letter A, the permanent issue of banknotes carried serial letter B.

## UNESCO World Heritage Site Status Application

Based on the presentation by Prof Clive Finlayson and Dr Geraldine Finlayson

UNESCO is committed to identifying, protecting, conserving, presenting and transmitting sites of significant heritage interest for the benefit of future generations. The World Heritage status is a prestigious designation and can help create a sense of national and local pride. Inscription can promote tourism, and increased focus on the conservation of a site. Becoming part of the World Heritage List, give sites new opportunities to reach out to and engage with the local community, particularly young people. Gibraltar is bidding to UNESCO for selection as such a site, based on the unique Neanderthal sites in the Gorham's Cave area. This article is based on a presentation given by Professor Clive Finlayson at the Annual Seminar in Winchester, and is intended to update the membership on recent developments. Clive has published many scholarly articles on the site that can be accessed for more information.



*Neanderthal jottings – unique!*

This project has been running for some time, and has recently received a further impetus, as there is a clear timeline that must be met for consideration in the next round of projects. The project specification has been significantly revised, and the evolution of the thinking is reflected in the attached illustrations. The importance of the geographic location in the context of the current view of the distribution of Neanderthal man is clear. It is likely that Gibraltar is one of the last outposts of this species of man, and that much can be learnt from further work on the known sites. When this is associated with the chronological sequence that is evident from the excavations, the significance of the location is further strengthened. Current views are that the site provides a three million year record of the history of the development of mankind, and an exceptional archive of tools and artefacts has already been uncovered, leading to a reinterpretation of the intelligence and capabilities of the Neanderthal (particularly the unique carving). The proposed site meets UNESCO's requirements on authenticity, integrity, importance and uniqueness.



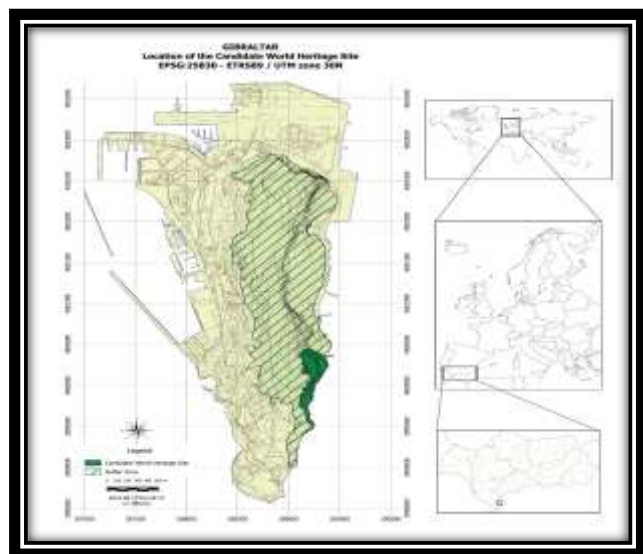
*The original carving...*

The Heritage Site proposal has to demonstrate the various aspects indicated in the opening paragraph of this article. In particular, conserving and presenting the finds and information gleaned from the site are a key element, and this led to earlier proposals for access and demonstration sites close to the caves. Initial options were shown to be very intrusive and too costly, with mitigation measures being very extensive and unaffordable (perhaps as much as £2.7M, excluding works on rebuilding Monkey's Cave Hospital as the demonstration building). Accommodation and laboratories were also not adequately addressed in this initial proposal.



*The importance of Geographic Location*

A revised concept was required to take advantage of other facilities available on the Rock, and to provide an adequate buffer zone to help preserve the site. A number of alternative locations were considered for the associated administrative and demonstration centre, including Hay's Level (disused tunnels), the former prison compound in the Moorish Castle, and Parson's Lodge. The current recommendation is to use the last of these for an Interpretation Centre, but to take advantage of all three to provide stores and laboratory areas. Visitors to the site will start at the interpretation facility in Parson's Lodge complex, and then take a boat to view the Gorham's Cave site and the East side of the Rock. Access to the site of the excavations will be controlled and the number of visitors who land in the caves will be limited to protect the site, but the view is that an excellent overall visit programme can be arranged, meeting UNESCO expectations. Protection will be enhanced by a limited range of works as detailed in the revised works summary illustration. The larger buffer



*Location of the Candidate WH site*

area will introduce some constraints in the future use of this land, but this is considered to be a worthwhile investment, as it is the Upper Rock area that is currently protected.

The proposal will be finalised in the early part of 2015, and a final decision will be taken on the submission in due course. Members of the Society will be kept informed of progress through the Gibraltar Heritage Trust web site, and through the Society's monthly e-newsletter. This is an exciting project and will result in a major change in the presentation and protection of heritage in Gibraltar, so is worthy of our attention, comment and support.

*Editor's Note: Recent discoveries and research have indicated have forced a revision of the interaction between Neanderthal and Modern Man. Exciting new work will help to clarify this further – it is currently estimated that between 1.5%-2.1% of non-African, modern human DNA comes from Neanderthals. The importance of preserving sites such as Gorham's Cave is clear.*



*An exceptional Archive*



*The Gorham's Cave site meets UNESCO's requirements on authenticity and Integrity*



# Gibraltar Day in London 2014

Gibraltar Day in London continues to grow year on year. In 2014 no less than 5 events were held in 48 hours in celebration of Gibraltar Day. Events were co-ordinated, as always, by Gibraltar House and its excellent staff.

The events commenced on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October with a church service held at Our Lady of Dolours Servite Church which was officiated by The Rt Hon Revd Bishop Ralph Heskett CSsR, Bishop of Hallam and until recently Bishop of Gibraltar.

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October Minister Albert Isola MP hosted the Chief Minister Fabian Picardo QC MP and 500 senior members of the financial services industry in the City of London to lunch.

Just before 6 o'clock on the 20th October about 1000 people could be found gathering at the Guildhall in the City of London to celebrate the main event, "Gibraltar Day", reception hosted by the Chief Minister. The queue stretched right across the Courtyard and was filled with guests in a happily expectant mood: politicians, expat Gibraltarians, businessmen and women of different stamps, financiers, lawyers, Gibraltarphiles and of course many Friends of Gibraltar. On arrival, after being efficiently processed and security checked, champagne, wine and canapés were the order of the day and very soon the buzz of conversation inside the beautiful and impressive Guildhall was almost deafening. It is always a great reunion and there were people there from all walks of Gibraltarian life both past and present. It was impossible to walk more than a few yards without meeting a friendly face, although walking itself with a full glass through the vast crush was a test requiring the skills of a ballet dancer. At 6.45 Albert Poggio GMH OBE, United Kingdom Representative of HM Government of Gibraltar and Vice-Chairman of the Friends brought the gathering to attention, he welcomed all to the Guildhall and promptly introduced the amusing double act of Sheriffs Andrew Parmesley and Fiona Adler who were representatives of The Lord Mayor of London. They reeled off a litany of interesting and arcane Gibraltar tidbits but they were the warm-up team!

The Chief Minister, Fabian Picardo, then gave a very upbeat speech which reflected Gibraltar's strong economic performance and of course the excitement of joining UEFA! He was followed by the Minister of State for Europe, David Lidington MP who delivered a very upbeat speech in support of Gibraltar and its people.



## **The Chief Minister in RG Tie and Full Flow**

There was then only a short time to drink up before we were ushered outside to watch the traditional Beating Retreat which consisted of a Massed Bands Spectacular and Sunset Ceremony by the Royal Gibraltar Regiment Band and Corps of Drums together with the Band of HM Royal Marines Portsmouth, commonly known as 'The Royal Band', who agreed to perform in commemoration of the 350 years of the formation of the Royal Marines. Both bands looked magnificent in their white Wolseley pattern helmets with the scarlet tunics of the RG musicians contrasting brilliantly with the naval blue of the Marines.



**A view of the event in the Guildhall**

All too soon we arrived at sunset, the lowering of the flags and both bands marching off to resounding applause from everyone who had attended this tremendous occasion. It is a tribute to Albert Poggio and Gibraltar House that Gibraltar Day in London has become preminent and is now an avidly anticipated event on the City's calendar. And, of course, it also reflects the strong and enduring relationship between London and the Rock. No doubt the Guildhall Courtyard will again ring to the sound of Gibraltarians and their excellent band next year.



**The RG Drum Major leads the Band past the Chief Minister**

# A 'Trafalgar Way' for Gibraltar? *By Anthony J P Lombard*

As we approach the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 21 October 2015, we must re-bask in the impressive coup achieved by the Gibraltar Chronicle, in becoming the first newspaper to carry the news of the momentous victory at Trafalgar. Moreover, two other specific Gibraltarian connections with the great battle should not be forgotten, and should, similarly, be celebrated and remembered.

Firstly, that Aaron Cardozo [1761-1833], the Representative of the Jewish Nation, at Gibraltar; Consul of Tunis, at Gibraltar; Chevalier of the Legion of Honour of France; developer of our impressive Regency City Hall; and good friend of Lord Nelson, is also reputed to have paid for the re-provisioning of Lord Nelson's fleet, at Tetuan, on the eve of the great battle, out of his own pocket and at his own personal expense. Furthermore, it is also said the costs, thereof, were never repaid. If so, it follows that because of the generosity of a Gibraltarian, Lord Nelson and his sailors were able to fight at Trafalgar upon full stomachs - a not inconsequential situation.

Secondly, that the news of the great victory was brought to Gibraltar by a privateer merchant sea vessel belonging to my maternal Abudarham family, namely the *'Flying Fish'*. The latter was an 80 ton schooner, manned by a 30 member crew and carried 10 guns. It had been lying just off the scene of the raging battle, waiting upon events to unfold and it was the vessel's Master, William Roberts, who was given the famous despatch, for General Fox, dated October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1805, informing the latter, as Governor of Gibraltar, about, both, the victory and the demise of Lord Nelson. The communication in question provided the then nascent Gibraltar Chronicle, with the famous exclusive, which it published, on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, 1805.

What may not be so well known is that Admiral Collingwood also sent a series of despatches to the UK, similarly reporting on the victory, plus its aftermath. The first was also dated the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 1805. A second was dated two days later. Both were entrusted to Lieutenant John Richard Lapentiere, Captain of H.M.S. Schooner *'Pickle'*. However, due to a storm, the *'Pickle'* was unable to sail, until the 26<sup>th</sup> October, reaching Falmouth on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Lapentiere then proceeded to travel to London overland by 'express, in a post chaise and four'. Lapentiere made 21 stops, to change horses, from Falmouth to London. His account of expenses shows his route and where he changed horses. The route comprised the main Falmouth to London coaching road, of 1805. Lapentiere reached the Admiralty, at 1.00 a.m., on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

On the occasion of the bi-centenary of Trafalgar, Lapentiere's 37 hour journey was inspiringly commemorated in the UK, by the inauguration of *'The Trafalgar Way'*. 'The Way' is now marked by a series of commemorative plaques, containing details of Lapentiere's journey and, additionally and very appropriately, commemorating local people, who fought with Nelson at Trafalgar. An example is attached herewith.

*'The Trafalgar Way'* commemorative plaques may be found at 36 different locations, between Falmouth and the Old Admiralty Building in Whitehall, including the latter two.

For those visiting London, one such plaque may be viewed at the beginning of Kensington High Street, at the Hammersmith end. That plaque was erected by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.

In the circumstances, perhaps, consideration should be given to the possibility of promoting a similar commemoration in Gibraltar, recording our own specific connections and contributions to Trafalgar? After all, Trafalgar was the seminal moment of the British Empire and we should be proud to proclaim our association and presence at the birth of the Empire.

.....

Editor's Note – the contents of this item first appeared in The Gibraltar Chronicle

# Reminiscences of earlier days

*a contribution by Tim Lawson-Cruttenden*

*Tim has kindly shared some memories of his father, who was a renowned long jump champion, having taken part in the Commonwealth and other games, representing Great Britain and England. It is interesting to speculate if he could have represented Gibraltar, as he was stationed on the Rock for several years...*

My father served in Gibraltar from 1958-1962 and from 1966-69. He was an Admiralty engineer. During his first tour he built the fuel depot at the Kings Lines and latterly he was engaged in the COMCEN and on the construction of the ammunition jetty on the Eastern side of the Rock.

His posting was announced by the News Chronicle on May 11 1957 under the heading "Roy Cruttenden is going to Gibraltar". The article predicted that my Father's athletic career as a long jumper would end abruptly as a posting to Gibraltar was considered "terminal". In fact my Father did not arrive until the Spring of 1958 and perhaps the delay enabled him to prepare for and to compete in the British and Commonwealth Games which took place in Cardiff in the autumn of 1958. I was only 3 years old at the time and was Father was relatively old for a high impact athlete at 33. I do not therefore remember him having to build his own long jump pit which he tells me he constructed with the help of several Spanish workmen at what was then the NOP and situated outside the entrance to HMS Rooke. Training did not go so well as he secured a fourth place in the Games therefore narrowly missing out on a medal.

In 1956 he had secured 8<sup>th</sup> place in the Olympic Long jump finals but surprising his best jump of 24 ft 10 3/4ins came immediately after the Olympic games when he was competing against the USA. This jump was the recent subject of discussions in Athletics Weekly in November 2014 –see below-as this apparently set a British record which was not broken until the end of his first tour in Gibraltar in 1962. However an Irish jumper had achieved a higher record which seems to have been disregarded even though at the time Ireland was part of Great Britain...

It is good to remember that whilst he resided in Gibraltar from 1958-1962 my Father was recognised, perhaps wrongly, (for the reasons set out in Athletics Weekly) as being the then current holder of the British long jump record. It is perhaps pleasant to speculate that when he narrowly missed that medal in 1958 he was representing both Gibraltar and Great Britain.

Whatever way he is looked at he is clearly one a small number of elite athletics who have resided on and who continue to be associated with the Rock. It is a shame that he never achieved a jump or 25 ft and



*The record breaking jump*

perhaps this is the price he had to pay for coming to Gibraltar at the peak of his jumping career. Neither sadly did he win either an Olympic or a Commonwealth medal.

He is about to reach his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and he is a frequent attendee of events organised by the Friends and an occasional visitor to Gibraltar.

The extracts below are reproduced from the Athletics Weekly.

## “Long Jump Records:

I do not think that the British long jump record that Lynn Davies beat in 1962 (AW, Oct 9) was the one set by Peter O'Connor in 1901, but the one set by **A R (Roy) Cruttenden** in Sydney in December 1956 (24 ft 10 ¼ in – 7.59m). (My source is: *British Athletics Record Book* 1958, McWhirter, Buchanan and McWhirter, and UK ranking lists 1959-61). *Tony Benton, Oct 16 “*

and also

## “Flash from the past:

Mr Benton refers to his jump in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia in December 1956. My father was competing for the British Empire and Commonwealth team against the USA, the competition immediately following the Melbourne Olympics and I have a photograph (see above) of the jump mentioned by Mr Benton. My father, now aged 90, continues to be fit and well, and resides in West Sussex. *Tim Lawson-Cruttenden “*

**TRACK and FIELD by HAROLD PALMER**

# ROY CRUTTENDEN IS GOING TO GIBRALTAR

**A**n athletics career which developed late but quickly led to stardom ends as abruptly this year. Only in the past year has the tall, sleek Polytechnic Harrier Roy Cruttenden reached 24ft. in the long jump; but, at Sydney last December, his 24ft. 10½in. was the best-ever by a U.K. athlete.

In September, however, 32-year-old Cruttenden, a civil engineer with the Admiralty, goes to Gibraltar with his wife and two sons for three years. He hopes to end his athletics career by competing against the Russians at White City on August 23, 24.

Cruttenden did not even specialise in long jumping when a junior. He did hundreds and quarters until a football injury handicapped his running. Winter training is something he has undertaken only in the last two years.

### PREDS CRICKET

While playing centre-forward for Southwick in the Sussex County League he had a few games for Brighton Reserves. He still admits to preferring cricket, to which he hopes to return, in Gibraltar.

"I suppose I would never have returned to athletics had I not thought I would get somewhere near the top," he says. "Frankly I cannot understand the enthusiasm of some of the second-raters who keep turning up and getting nowhere—but obviously the sport would be nothing without them."

### INTERESTING ANGLES

There should be some interesting athletic angles in a Cambridge Union Debate next Tuesday. Keith MacInnes, vice-president of the Union puts this odd resolution: "That man fulfills himself most fully when uselessly employed."

Former quarter-mile international Terry Higgins temporarily off the track through injury, opposes, but Chris Chataway supports and Sir Edward Boyle, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Education, backs Higgins.



ROY CRUTTENDEN . . . leaving for Gibraltar in September.

The initial press cutting announcing Roy's posting to the Rock

# OUT AND ABOUT IN GIBRALTAR

Developments on key sites around the Rock *by the Editors*

*This section aims to update the membership on the changing landscape on the Rock, and on key developments around the peninsula. Whilst it is far from comprehensive, the editors hope that it helps to keep members in touch with local developments, and to provide context for some of the discussions with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust.*

*The first update is on the refurbishment of the Old Guard in John Mackintosh Square, partly funded by the Friends.*



*A view of the refurbished headquarters of the Gibraltar Heritage Society – looking splendid! Please pop in if you are on the Rock, and take advantage of the complementary pass to the Upper Rock, and the shop!*

*The work on Commonwealth Park was reported in the last issue. This has come to fruition, and provides a splendid recreational area in the Town Centre, as shown in the views below. This area used to be playing fields for the Services, local schools and sports clubs, but recently had been used as a car park, and was rather an eye sore as one looked out from the promenade in front of the City Hall.*



*Commemorative plaque and map of gardens*



*General view of the gardens looking South-West*



*The Central area*



*And finally a reverse view looking North*

*The area around Convent Place (the guardroom refurbishment was reported last year) has also been subject to further development – government offices and rationalisation. We look forward to the completion of this project.*



*This gives an impression of the new look for the area*



*Though much work remains to be completed*

*Other areas of the town have also seen major developments, particularly to provide additional affordable housing, and to improve the looks of older buildings. Housing has always been a challenge on the Rock, and these initiatives are welcome. The areas are conveniently sited, with easy access to the Old Town and the facilities, though perhaps some might be a little windy in some weather conditions.*



*New housing in the area of the North Mole – affordable housing*



*And replacing derelict sites by the North Face*



*Significant improvements are being made to the blocks opposite Glacis Estate, adding better access and lifts (view on the left) as well as recladding the outside. An overall view of the works in this area is shown in the view above. These blocks are very visible as one walks in from the Airport, and they now complement the refurbishment of the Glacis Estate on the other side of the road. The walk benefits from the efforts of the City gardener, whose team maintain hanging baskets and other plants that add colour to the area.*



*The new Gibraltar International Bank in the area of Ince's Hall – a new financial initiative on the Rock. This building has seen a variety of uses, including a night club. One hopes that the project benefits from the experience that Gibraltar now has in international finance.*



*The new gardens on the old Theatre Royal site. This old cinema had been an eyesore for many years. The building was in dangerous condition, and attempts to restore it proved in vain, as the basic structure was not sound. The new gardens provide an area of rest in the centre of the Old Town, and have opened up this area close to the Garrison Library.*

*Major developments in the Sandy Bay area were enjoyed by all who visited the Rock this past summer. The Catalan Bay beach was also improved and maintained at the start of the season.*



*This major enhancement has transformed Sandy Bay, providing an excellent swimming facility, and protecting the area from the winter storms. This new facility proved very popular last summer, though parking remains a challenge.*

*Further developments are expected in the near future on the reclamation that can be seen in the background beyond Catalan Bay (Eastside area), but we will wait for confirmation as there have been several false starts in the recent past.*

*There is a large mound of rubble and earth than can be used to reclaim additional area for this project, and several schemes have been considered over the past decade. We will attempt to keep members up to date on any developments.*



*Commemorative plaque to Richard Wells CBE from the Friends  
At the Trafalgar Cemetery (see earlier)*



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**Front Cover:**

A revealing diary kept by Winston Churchill's personal nurse who cared for him during a cruise in 1960 shows what a terrible patient he was. The previously unseen records have emerged along with photographs of Churchill taken on voyages when he was a guest of his friend Aristotle Onassis. The cruise on SY Christina was designed for Churchill to recuperate from a neck injury he suffered after a fall in London, but he was clearly a grumpy passenger. Nurse Muriel Thomson recorded how she attempted to help the former war leader's recovery with deep breathing exercises.

**Churchill with a monkey.**

***APPEAL FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS***

*The Society would welcome additional volunteers from the membership to assist with the organisation of events, with the administration of the Society, and in any other way that might be appropriate.*

*Members are encouraged to contact any member of the Executive Committee, or to contact Gibraltar House for a telephone number or e-mail address.*

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