

ROCK TALK 15



JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR
HERITAGE SOCIETY

2022

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Editorial

Circumstances in the past year have once again meant that a good number of Friends were unable to travel as freely as usual to visit Gibraltar; and many Gibraltar-based family and friends were restricted in the frequency of their visits to the UK. At least, towards the end of the year, some of the Society's events were able to be held as real (if slightly reduced) gatherings, during moments of easier Covid-related constraints. We all look forward to meeting up again in better times in 2022.

On the other hand, some degree of free time in lockdown has inspired several Friends to send in excellent and varied contributions for this issue of *Rock Talk*. I should like to take this opportunity to thank them all publicly: and to encourage others to put pen to paper (or perhaps fingers to the keyboard) in advance of the 2023 issue. It's never too early to send me your thoughts!

I should also like to acknowledge gratefully the local news supplied once again by our colleagues in the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, the Gibraltar National Archives, and Gibraltar House in London.

Finally, I am indebted to our former local co-editor, Brian Gonzalez, for stepping in at short notice to send us a photographic impression of the changes we may have missed in Gibraltar's growing skyline.

Jennifer Scherr (February 2022)

Deceased Members

The Society has been informed during 2021 of the death of the following Friends, which we note with great regret:

Mr Reginald Andlaw
Dr Edward Archer
Mrs Marie Christine Campbell - Lamerton
Mrs Penelope Mayhew
Mrs Conchita Ramirez

Our condolences are extended to their families and friends on their sad loss.

Chairman's Foreword

Sir Adrian Johns

I am delighted once again to introduce the latest issue of *Rock Talk*. Like the Society itself, our annual journal has gone from strength to strength over the years and I am sure you will find this edition even more informative and interesting than ever.

It is now nearly two years since the Covid virus began to affect our lives and to change our ways of working. Despite all the constraints, our Society has moved ahead with vigour and determination. I hope you will see this for yourself in the following pages and that you have been kept in touch on a regular basis via our excellent quarterly newsletters.

*Checking on the Rock at the National Arboretum
August 2021*



Though there have been many difficulties in 2021, there have been some real highlights for us as well. Most notably, we enjoyed a highly successful AGM and Seminar in October, which you can read about in Peter Hucker's article below. It was clear that the hybrid arrangement allowed us to reach a much wider audience and, overall, we registered the highest attendance for some years.

My thanks go to all those who worked so hard to make this happen and to all our speakers. The chosen venue of the Oxfordshire Golf Hotel worked well for us again, but we are exploring other possibilities for 2022 to ensure the live venue is accessible and convenient.

Another highlight is the Society's increasing profile on social media. As you will see from Len Goss's report below, we now have some 1000 followers on Facebook. This number is growing and is already over twice our actual membership. We hope that those who have not yet joined may do so in due course, but the key point is the growing interest in the Society and what we do, which we hope will be translated into an increased membership. This, in turn, means higher revenue and more funds for heritage projects.

The third highlight for me was the opportunity presented by our taking a table at the Friends of the British Overseas Territories (FOTBOT) annual black tie Christmas dinner. The FOGHS table flew the Gibraltar flag, and I was invited to say a few words to the assembled company about our Society and our heritage projects. As a result, we had a sprinkling of new members sign up on the evening and we have also started a conversation with the FOTBOT team about closer co-operation in the future. More of that as things develop.

2022 is HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee year and the Royal Gibraltar Regiment have been given the honour of carrying out public duties in the UK as they did in 2012 during my tenure as Commander-in-Chief. I hope we will be able to see something of the regiment's activity during the visit in the Spring.

Finally, I welcome new trustees Len Goss and Fiorina Fortunato to the Board and thank all my fellow Board members and other supporters who do so much on behalf of the whole Society.

I hope that 2022 proves easier and happier than its predecessor!

Back to the Future – an AGM and a forward-looking Seminar

Peter Hucker

Many of us, more than 30 in fact, were delighted to find that we could hold our Annual General Meeting and Seminar in the real world, on the 16th of October 2021, having been confined to the ether by the pandemic in the previous October. There was some uncertainty, right up to the last minute, but we were able to get together at the Oxfordshire Golf Hotel and Spa once again, as we had for a few years prior to 2020. Following the success of the web-based Seminar in 2020 the Board had decided that we should stream the live event to members as well. By breaking new ground in this way, we hoped to be able to make the event accessible to more of our members.

With concerns about COVID still very real this also meant that around 25 more people could join us on-line from the comfort, and relative safety, of their homes. Some had elected to do so from the kitchen and others while mobile, but the effect was, we thought, quite successful. We hope to build on that success in future years, although there is probably no substitute for attending in person and enjoying the company of Friends over the whole weekend.

One benefit of our approach this time was that our speakers at the Seminar didn't need to be there in person and we were able to link up with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust in Gibraltar and with the Minister for Heritage, Dr John Cortes at a time when travel was complicated. Erika Balban was also able to join in without leaving campus and interrupting her studies. We are immensely grateful to all our speakers for their participation and for their continuing support for the Friends!

Our Chairman opened the proceedings by welcoming everyone to the AGM, draft minutes of which are published later in this issue. After some brief reports from members of the Board, we were able to move on to the Seminar and an update from the GHT where Keith Farrell, the Chairman, highlighted progress at Witham's Cemetery, a project the Friends have been supporting for a few years now and which is reaching an important point in its restoration programme. Keith explained the work that had been done so far and his developing plans for the future. Claire Montado, the CEO, then described the challenges of getting the GHT back on track after a couple of difficult years under the shadow of COVID. The loss of tourism and consequently footfall in the Trust's office had prompted a move on-line which is proving very successful. She also brought us up to date with some of the projects she has in hand (more of which can be found in her report later in this issue).

Making Gibraltar Net Zero

Dr Cortes' presentation was focused on climate change, its potential impact and the measures being taken by HM Government of Gibraltar to protect the environmental heritage of the Rock. He explained that specific impacts in Gibraltar will range from heatwaves and associated health impacts, an increase in vector borne diseases via the spread of mosquitoes, hotter and dryer summers followed by more extreme precipitation, which could in turn cause more rockfalls and localised flash flooding as heavy rain episodes become more frequent. Sea level rise will also be a consideration with the Mediterranean area expected to witness sea level rises of between 0.7 and 1.1m by 2100.

He went on to tell us that, in March 2019, the Gibraltar Parliament unanimously declared a climate emergency with ambitious targets that include a pledge to make Gibraltar carbon neutral by 2030 and to reduce emissions by 50% by 2035. The Climate Change Act, which commenced in October 2019, contains ambitious legally binding targets for Government. These are to reduce emissions by 42% by 2030 and to become effectively net-zero by 2045.

Gibraltar distinguishes between those emissions over which Government can reasonably exercise direct influence (e.g. electricity generation, traffic and transport, building policies) and those which will require international co-operation and action, such as shipping and bunkering.

Some emissions are outside the control of Gibraltar itself but reductions in the stationary energy sector will largely be driven by switching electricity generation to Liquefied Natural Gas and increasing the share of renewable energy. In the transport sector electric vehicles and walking and cycling will help although, in 2045, a small amount of emissions will remain due to some petrol vehicles remaining on the road. Reductions in emissions from waste will be driven by the ambitious targets to increase recycling rates and achieve zero avoidable waste by 2050.

Working with the GHT and Beyond



Erika Balban is a Gibraltarian final year student at the University of Kent studying History and Archaeology. She successfully applied for the Friends of Gibraltar role at the Gibraltar Heritage Trust last summer and has since signed up to creating content on our social media. She joined us for our final guest presentation and told us about her experiences with the GHT, her work on our new Facebook Community page and about her plans to build a encourage a greater interest in Gibraltar and its heritage amongst younger people.

Erika told us her main tasks during her time at the GHT were to try to recruit new members to the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society and to arrange marketing opportunities as well as using Facebook to post social media posts. Encouraging new UK-based members had been a challenge as tourist footfall was unusually low, especially since big events were cancelled over summer. However, she had created a 'Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society' corner in the GHT Shop, which promotes our charity using *Rock Talk* magazine and sales of the Friends of Gibraltar tie. Sadly, the corner had been temporarily lost when water damage closed the shop last year, but Erika has continued promoting the organization, especially to students at her University. She went on to say that, in the next year, she would be working with Len Goss, our Marketing and Engagement Director, to improve community experience on Facebook and Instagram and to hopefully create a steady flow of new members. Engagement and reach had already skyrocketed which delighted her and she thought interacting with people from all over the world who have a connection to Gibraltar was a wonderful experience.

Over the summer Erika redrew the maps for Trafalgar Cemetery, a project which quickly grew with the help of the GHT team, to include the creation of seven new information boards. These boards aim to help the visitor learn a little bit about the sailors and soldiers who are buried there and the struggles they faced, most notably smallpox and yellow fever.

Most of the volunteers Erika encounters in the heritage sector are of an older generation. They bring a lot of enthusiasm and experience to their work, but she hasn't seen that level of enthusiasm amongst those in her own generation. Very few younger people, she feels, seek weekend volunteering roles.

So, Erika is currently attempting to recruit as many young students as possible who might not even have heard of Gibraltar before and are looking for part-time volunteering. While this is a start, she believes the availability of paid roles can provide particular incentive and that her participation in the Friends of Gibraltar student scheme had been an excellent example.

Following on from Erika, Len Goss closed the Seminar with his introduction to his plans for the development of our Engagement Strategy and our on-line presence, about which see his report below in this issue.



This Year and Beyond

The on-line experience has allowed more people to participate, regardless of location, it also lets us consider the venue for the live event more creatively. There is no doubt in our minds that the expansion of the event to include on-line access is the way to go for the future and so we intend to do something similar in 2022.

Plans are already being made and we hope to be able to announce an outline of the next event to all our members in the spring. We hope to see as many of you as possible there, either in person or virtually!

Exciting Times Ahead for our Marketing & Engagement Plans

Len Goss

By the nature of our society, we spend a lot of our time focusing on Gibraltar's past. But in order for our society to survive and thrive in this rapidly changing world, we also need to plan for our own future. Since I joined the Board a year ago, we've all been working hard developing our Vision and Plan for where we want to be and what kind of impact we want to have.

Simply put, in the next 5 years, we want to:

- Double our membership from around 475 members to 1,000 members
- Double our capacity to directly fund and support heritage projects in Gibraltar
- Significantly increase our level of engagement and collaboration with our members, volunteers, audiences and strategic partners
- Increase and improve our membership benefits
- Set up modern, online systems and resources to help us achieve the above

These are ambitious goals. And we're very excited about them! Here are some highlights of what we're focusing on for this year:

From "Stranger" to "Good & Active Friends" – We want our marketing and engagement to make a person's journey from being a total stranger to being a good, active member as easy, enjoyable and beneficial as we can make it. We will be using an "attraction and relationship building" form of marketing and engagement as opposed to a "selling" one.

Web Site – We've just started designing our new web site which will be developed and launched in three phases over the course of this year. Phase 1 will focus on replacing the outdated existing design and functionality with a contemporary look and feel, along with improved features and resources. Phase 2 will add marketing, engagement and membership administration tools to automatically attract and manage new members as well as improve the way we communicate with our existing members and external audiences. We will also be significantly improving and expanding the heritage and project related content on our site. Phase 3 goals will build on the above foundations to make the visitor experience more enjoyable, informative and engaging.

Branding Guide & New Logo – It's time to freshen up our look and feel and standardise the way all our communications are produced.

Social Media – We launched a new Facebook Community Page and social media campaign at last October's AGM. We are delighted to now have over 1,100 members. The page is proving to be very popular and active. Membership is still growing at a good and steady rate. We have also just recently launched an Instagram page and already have nearly 200 followers. We have managed to achieve this without incurring any costs! Our Facebook page is at www.facebook.com/groups/foghscommunity and our Instagram page is at www.instagram.com/friendsogibraltarheritage. Look us up and join in – it's all free!

Young FOGHS Group – We will be forming this group this year to encourage involvement and membership from younger people interested in Gibraltar's rich heritage.

I hope that gives you a taste of what's to come and excites you as much as it does us. We will be including marketing and engagement updates in our regular newsletters throughout the year so you will be able to monitor progress on above and new initiatives.

If you'd like to be involved in any of the above activities, then please contact me on info@friendsofgibraltar.org.uk or +44 7984 132505.

Come and join in - the future is bright and exciting!

FOGHS Christmas Party, 1st December 2021 at the RAF Club

Tricia Johnson

The last time we held our Christmas Party at the RAF Club was in 2019 when we had a very good time. This year we chose to return there and really enjoyed the party, for many reasons, not least for the fact that we had been unable to hold a party in 2020 due to...COVID. This event, like the AGM and Seminar in October, was almost like coming home, and being able to be with our friends again was such a joy. In fact, we were very lucky, as you will be well aware because events were having to be cancelled again soon after our event due to another surge in the number of COVID cases.



On the evening, members of the Board welcomed both regular attendees, new members and several members' guests which was a great pleasure, just over 30 in total. Our President, Baroness Gloria Hooper and our Chairman, Sir Adrian Johns were again present, they are both extremely supportive. There was so much news to catch up on that the conversations and laughter flowed throughout the evening, along with tasty canapés and wine. It was so good to be back together in person again.

Just prior to rounding up the evening, both Sir Adrian and Baroness Hooper gave very short speeches, acknowledging how important it was to be back together again, thanking the organisers and all members of the Board for their work throughout the year. All were wished a Happy Christmas and New Year.

Charitable Expenditure – Projects Report 2021

In conjunction with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, we have continued to support the conservation of Witham's Cemetery (£5,000). We were also very pleased to support a student summer placement with GHT, working on our behalf: Erika Balban, whose valuable contributions are mentioned above.

Also in conjunction with GHT, we contributed towards the new stained-glass windows in the refurbished Central Hall. These windows, named "The Dance", were designed by competition-winner Sean Ballester, a teacher at West Side School. His design honours the past and the present, capturing the essence of this historical venue. It celebrates moments of connection, joy, laughter, and love, and represents many of the elements which the Central Hall embodies.

Minister Dr John Cortes and the Director of Gibraltar Cultural Services Seamus Byrne both spoke a few words as the windows and a plaque in the outer entrance were unveiled. The Minister wore a FOGHS tie, with GBC filming and the *Chronicle* taking photos. Both the GHT and the Friends were mentioned. The works were completed some months ago, but the unveiling was delayed as an act of respect to community in the height of the COVID-19 wave in recent months. Deborah Huxley attended the unveiling on behalf of the Friends and sent us this report.



We were pleased that we could present project awards to two winners and ten highly-commended Year 7 students at Bayside Comprehensive School this year. Their historical theme was 'Gibraltarians travelling around the World' and we congratulate them all.



We also sponsored a new school award: a Christmas card design competition. The joint winners were Aaliyah Barnes of Bayside School (Santa and reindeer) and Ayman Laghrich of Westside School (cable car and castle). One or other of the cards was sent to all Friends, bringing colour and good cheer during a somewhat Covid-subdued time.



We continue to contribute a wreath in October every year which is laid at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire on our behalf by members of the architect Joe Brugada's family, alongside wreaths sent by the Government and people of Gibraltar, and the Royal British Legion Gibraltar Branch. The Gibraltar Memorial was dedicated in October 2015 to all Gibraltarians killed in action in both World Wars.



We welcome new ideas for suitable relevant projects to be considered for support by the FOGHS Board – in Gibraltar or in the UK. Please contact Richard Lord richard.lord2@btinternet.com in the first instance.

We take this opportunity to remind Friends to let Richard Lord know of any changes of name or address during the year ahead. Please also let Richard know if you wish to cancel your Gift Aid declaration for any reason, including a change in your tax circumstances.

BUSINESS AS USUAL? Getting back the GHT back on track

Claire Montado

The last 18 months have been far from the ordinary in terms of how we have lived and conducted our businesses and working lives. Even under normal circumstances, no working day is ever the same at the Trust let alone in the midst of a pandemic that is closing down businesses and the hospitality trade all over the world. The mass tourism that Gibraltar was so used to literally stopped overnight, Main Street quiet and empty, our staff worried about their health and that of their families.

Settling into a work from home routine, we worked to keep the Trust functioning remotely. We interacted with our members through our e-newsletter and social media accounts with quizzes and interactive puzzles and came up with a format to hold our annual Painting Competition virtually with great success. Other Trust business, Board Meetings, building application consultations, meetings of the DPC, all went online. It was not the same, but it worked, and everyone was willing to make allowances and the best of it.

An immediate impact on the Trust was the loss in sales in our shop and interactions with our members, general public and visitors. We sought various ways to overcome this, with implementing a click and collect service for example, but the closure was significant for us. Shop business aside, other areas of Trust activity have not been affected in the same way. The grant we receive from the Government to cover salaries and basic admin costs continued throughout lockdown, so we did not need to furlough staff or apply for the BEAT payment scheme that Government put in place.

Much like the Friends, a core function and revenue raising area for the Trust is that of the membership programme. Our membership base really is the heart of the work we do. Many of our longstanding members have been with us since the Trust was constituted in 1989 and have stuck with us through thick and thin. With a membership base of approx 1,000 individuals (as we currently have within a population of 32,000) it is a significant voice when needed. It is largely due to our membership base that we have the lobbying and advocacy platform that we enjoy.

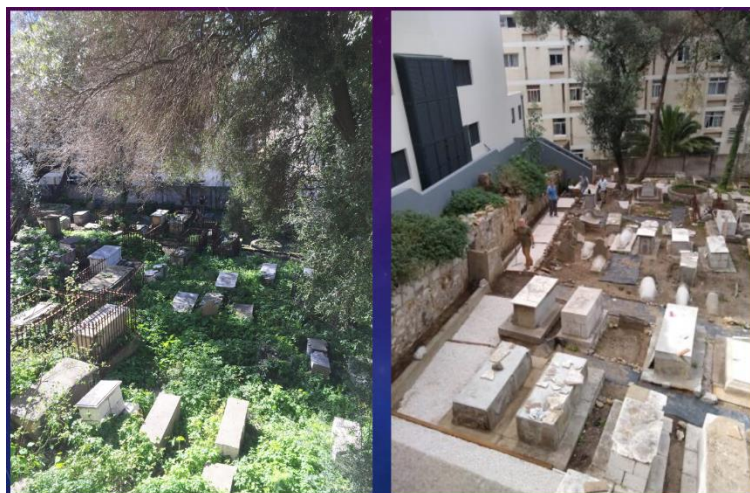
Unlike other trust models, like the National Trust for example, we do not own any properties, so our events programme has always been a core activity and draw for joining the Trust. For a modest £10 to £25 per year (depending on your membership package) members gain access to a programme of a minimum of 25 events and tours in a 12-month period, as well as free access to the Upper Rock Nature Reserve and historic sites, and additional selected discounts in our shop and from supporting local businesses. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a limited but significant effect on the Trust. Membership renewals have been stable amongst the majority of our membership categories, but our Corporate Members dropped from 15 in 2019 to 2020 period to 3 in the 2020 to 2021 period. We seem to be recovering in the 2021 to 2022 period with a renewed uptake but it is clear that in order to keep up the momentum of projects and activities that we undertake we need to fundraise in other ways. Thus, the project-based support we receive from the Friends is a very important part of this.

We have been building a portfolio of projects over the last few years - mainly restorations of sites and objects and places that would not normally be a priority for Government investment. Gibraltar is packed full of heritage assets spanning millennia and it is just not feasible to expect Government to undertake the repair and maintenance of all of it. That is not to say that there are not more major heritage focussed projects that should be undertaken centrally. The Trust mainly aims to support these by adding value and detail to larger projects and undertaking smaller more manageable ones that rely on volunteer input.

One such example is the support for the Central Hall Stained-Glass window project (recently completed, see *above*). This large community building in the south district was originally built as a chapel (South Barracks Chapel) and ceased to be such in the 1950s, when it then became a well-used community hall. Gibraltar Cultural Services, as manager of the facility, embarked on a refurbishment of the hall, particularly taking advantage of the suspension of community use during lockdown, with the aim of restoring the beautiful ceiling, which had been truncated at some point with a suspended ceiling. It was upon removal of this ceiling that it was realised that the full frame from the chapel's stained-glass window was in situ and so it was agreed that a new one should be commissioned and installed. The Trust, together with the FOGHS, has been able to support this project with a donation towards the window therefore playing a lasting part in the restoration of this historic building.

As has been well reported on, the Friends' support for the Witham's Cemetery project has been immense in making an impact on this long forgotten historic cemetery. There is so much more to do there and will be done there in the coming months and years. As a Society you should feel that you have certainly made a difference there

But there are other projects gaining momentum now too. Also starting in lockdown is the restoration of Lord Airey's Battery that has been underway for over 18 months now under the dedicated lead of Trustee Pete Jackson.



An artillery man by background, Pete is passionate about Gibraltar's fortifications and artillery and honouring the part they played in making Gibraltar what it is. As this project has gathered momentum, we have had support from the Ministry for the Environment and Heritage in terms of logistical help, but it is a resource-hungry site. The Trust has earmarked a modest sum to keep the project rolling and we also benefited from a substantial donation from the Pharos Trust locally which has allowed up to replace a section of the gun deck that was in danger of collapse. But there is still a list of infrastructural works needed to make it safe

and able to welcome guided tours. To do this we have created a funding project with the aim of raising £10,000 towards this project and other minor restoration projects undertaken throughout the year. So far, we have passed the first £1000 milestone, and have some other plans for 2022 to keep the support and momentum going on this site.

Lockdown also made us think about how we can improve access to many of the sites around Gibraltar that are inaccessible to visitors and are likely to be so for the foreseeable future. One site in particular was that of the SOE (Special Operations Executive) chambers that were identified fairly recently at the Middle Galleries.

The chambers were identified in 2017 when author Nick Rankin was researching his latest book 'Defending the Rock' and came across a file at the National Archives at Kew with a 24-page typed diary of an agent called Hugh Mallory Falconer, detailing his time and activities at Gibraltar setting up a secret agent's wireless network to cover Iberia and North Africa. Nick, together with Ian Reyes of the Fortress of Gibraltar Group, set about locating the station and were successful! The remaining wooden framework of the hut, walled and roofed with corrugated iron sheets to keep out moisture was still there! Comparing it with Falconer's photo from 1942 it was the same- the radio equipment was gone, but the planks on the wall still held the rusting nails where the messages had hung beneath pasted labels.



We decided that at the very least we needed to record this space and preserve it by record. So, in late early 2021 we embarked upon a phased project to firstly 3D scan the 3 chambers associated with the place. We are now in Phase 2, a historical reconstruction of the capture that will allow virtual visits by the wider public. We are also looking for opportunity to make a physical intervention in terms of consolidating what survives on site in the hope that one day it can be open to visitors.

In addition to the above we have also completed a couple of further public awareness vehicles.

Firstly, we are hugely excited to have launched our first ever podcast series 'The Gibraltar Heritage Podcast'. The 16 Episode first season has gathered over 1200 downloads since its launch. Co-produced by Trustee Alice Mascarenhas and me, we are finding that it is bringing a new level of interaction with the heritage subject matter being discussed which can only be good to raise awareness about the richness of Gibraltar's story and also debate any topical issues that may arise. Listen on your podcast provider of choice.

And the podcast has been in good company on our TV screens by the second series of 'Working with History'. Produced with GBC the series comprised of 8 episodes, each looking at a couple of heritage projects per episode – either updates on projects from series one or new projects being undertaken. The SOE project, Witham's Cemetery, Lord Airey's and the Central Hall restoration are all featured in their respective episodes, so if you want to know more about either of them and about the rest of the Trust's work, you can watch them on the Trust's YouTube Channel.



In conclusion, the Trust has successfully navigated the challenges of the last 18 months and seems to have come out at the other end moderately unscathed but looking to the future there are elements to our functions and operational model that have evolved

and will continue to evolve for the better. What is clear is that with the return of tourism to the Rock post pandemic, Gibraltar is appealing to new markets and a more discerning visitor who wants to see more than just the apes and the dolphins. The Trust aims to add to the depth and variety of the Gibraltar story being told – Witham's and Lord Aireys and the SOE cave are hopefully just the beginning of this and the opportunity to tell Gibraltar's broader story and keep the community engaged with the history of this Rock we are so privileged to call home. The opportunities are certainly there to be grabbed.



(This article is adapted from a presentation given at the FOGHS annual Seminar in October 2021)

GIBRALTAR HOUSE NEWS

Dominique Searle

2021 has been another tough year for everyone, but for Gibraltar it has also been a year when, for most, working towards normality has at times felt like a very slippery slope. All the stops are out to build the future economy, recover and move on.

The Chief Minister and his team have been very focused on trying to resolve post-Brexit issues in the context of the at times seemingly endless Covid 19 challenges, not least the simple logistics of engagement. Discussions involving Gibraltar, UK, Spain and the EU will probably have peaked recently or are about to do so as you read this article. Very technical, and therefore inherently complex, issues have been under scrutiny to try and resolve the simple but critical factor of having border fluidity between Gibraltar and Spain. This fluidity is essential, primarily to protect the economic and social well-being of both Gibraltar and its hinterland and to avoid both sides having obstacles resulting from the legal separation from the EU. At the centre of this is the ambition for a UK/EU treaty on Gibraltar's future relationship with the EU. And fundamental to the Chief Minister's position, is that any agreement must see no infringement on our "British, British, British" sovereignty.

At present only two broad outcomes are foreseen. Either we have an agreement which then unfolds essentially as envisaged in 2021's 'New Year's framework' agreed just over a year ago, or there is a "no negotiated outcome" (NNO) which means Gibraltar finds itself dealing with the sudden consequences of being treated by the EU as a third country with a border onto a Schengen controlled area. The latter will have an impact on many day-to-day issues and, not least, on the existing model we have had which sees a very positive and symbiotic relationship between the Rock and the Campo de Gibraltar.

Whilst talks have been taking place, the authorities have preserved what is as close as possible to the status quo ante for residents of Gibraltar and Spain crossing the border. In broad terms, the Campo is ten times the population of Gibraltar (some 300,000 to our 34,000), but the Rock generates 25% of their GDP and is collectively second only to the Andalusian public sector as an employer.

Consequently, people on both sides are hoping a good arrangement will be reached, but clearly there is a great deal of interest in what the detail will mean for people and commerce on both sides.

Apart from the post-Brexit talks, the over-riding issue has been Covid-19 where support from the UK on vaccines has been tremendous. Significantly, the UK has also supported Sovereign rate borrowing for Gibraltar which has allowed the Gibraltar government to support public sector and private sectors alike. However, Gibraltar has not been able to escape the challenges of the pandemic and now faces dealing with the far greater public debt than normal whilst working to rebuild our economic machine. Agreement or not between UK and the EU on our frontier, support from our friends in the UK is now more important than ever as we reach out to recover from these tumultuous times.

Amazingly, the people of Gibraltar have been able, as they do in times of crisis, to call on their 'siege genes' and get on with life and deal with the pandemic as best they can as they move in and out of the varying restrictions that have been required of them. Many community and cultural services and events moved online, where possible, and there was a real effort to focus on the positive and look to the better days that no doubt will return, hopefully, soon. Cultural activity changed but continued and every effort has been made to motivate and support people through the community.

Gibraltar Health Authority staff ready to administer vaccines



Where possible the authorities engineered systems to generate income and assist key industries. A good example of this was providing safe facilities that allowed cruise ships to drop their crews and fly them home where otherwise they found themselves trapped on board moved from one port to another. And as cruise ships slowly came back with passengers, 'bubble' tours were arranged for visitors which kept both them and the community safe. Every effort was made to ensure as much tourism as possible could safely reach the rock last summer and fill our hotels.

Award winners at the 48th Gibraltar International Art Festival

Meanwhile, for Gibraltar House in London there was at least a slow return to the kind of engagement that the office thrives on. Both the Labour and Conservative parties held 'live' in person party conferences and, though limited, direct engagement with Parliament and other institutions started creeping back. The APPG Gibraltar saw some positives in that whilst MPs were at home there was often more participation in online sessions than might be the case in normal parliamentary times. That was partly due to MPs having more time, but also to the fact that the Chief Minister was more easily able to join these sessions from Gibraltar and therefore sit in far more frequently.



Of course, it was particularly disappointing that, for a second year in a row, we were not able to host National Day in Gibraltar. That said, members of the APPG Gibraltar executive were able to join me for lunch al fresco at Covent Garden where, for a small bribe, an operatic busker handing out copies of the Gibraltar national anthem brought a rousing cheer to all present, suitably accompanied by a live arrangement for the resident string quartet!

The Chief Minister has made clear that 2022 sees Gibraltar moving on a challenging course whilst commitments to the environment, housing and community institutions are being preserved and developed. As always, a great thanks to our friends in UK and, not least, to all of you in the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society.

Gibraltar National Archives (GNA) Year Review: 2021

A W Pitaluga, MBE

Notwithstanding the extraordinary adverse times, the terrible hardships, to say the least, the distressing era we are all living, for me personally, 2021 could not have started on a better foot. I am referring to the announcement of my incorporation into Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), published in the New Year Honours List for 2021. I will never forget that sunny Monday morning, around the middle of December 2020, when the Governor of Gibraltar, Vice Admiral Sir David Steel, KBE, DL, summoned me to his office. Before

I had time to catch my breath, Sir David, in his usual soft-spoken suave manner, asked me about the medal I had received from Lieutenant General Edward Davies, his predecessor. I told Sir David that I was very proud to have received the Governor's Medal for excellence from Lieutenant General Davies, in February of that year. At that point Sir David stood up, and handing me an envelope said, "I can't give you another medal. However, I can give you this letter from Her Majesty the Queen, addressed to you. Please open it". I did... I can't describe well what happened next... the feelings defy words... "Is this really for me Sir?", I asked. "A silly question. Why would I have given it to you?" replied the Governor. He walked towards me and shook my hand vigorously exclaiming, "many congratulations to you and your family." I could not have received better recognition.



However, due to pandemic delays my investiture ceremony did not take place until nearly one calendar year later, at Windsor Castle. It was held by the Prince of Wales, on Wednesday, 8th December 2021, at 11.00 am. I was instructed to approach His Royal Highness, turn, and bow at the level of the Equerry in Waiting, who presented me. After the Prince of Wales placed my insignia, we exchanged a few cordial words, conversing about Gibraltar and my work, for a few minutes. I then bowed, about turned, and walked out of the Great Waterloo Chamber accompanied by my wife, proudly wearing my MBE Insignia for the first time.

Gibraltar Archivist, Anthony Pitaluga MBE, and Mrs. Tina Pitaluga. Windsor Castle, 8th December 2021

Descending from the MBE clouds, 2021 started with a proposal from the GNA to Dr Joseph Garcia, the Deputy Chief of Gibraltar (DCM), also responsible for the GNA. The proposal in question referred to the organisation of a commemorative exhibition that would mark the centenary of the creation of the Gibraltar City Council (the local body that gave Gibraltar its first steps to self-government).

Prior to the approved City Council exhibition, June saw the publication of the 1921 Census. The Gibraltar Census of 1921 was taken on the night of Sunday 19th June 1921, simultaneously with that of the United Kingdom. The total population – Civil, Naval and Military, returned at 22,095 in 1921, as against 25,367 in 1911. The Gibraltar 1921 Census dataset is accessible via the GNA website, <https://www.nationalarchives.gi/1921.aspx> and refers to the civilian population only, recorded in 1921 as 18,700 [see also the article by Paul Blake later in this issue].

Wednesday 10th November saw the official opening, by Dr Garcia, at the Mario Finlayson National Gallery, City Hall, of the commemorative exhibition *Centenary of the City Council: First Step to Self-Government*. Thereafter, the exhibition remained opened to the public from Thursday 11th November to Friday 17th December 2021. The aims of the exhibition were firstly, to highlight and introduce to the younger generations, the public institution that was the City Council of Gibraltar, and how, in 1921, for the first time in local history, Gibraltarians were given the chance to elect their Council representatives democratically. Secondly, to honour and remember the protagonists—the councillors selected or appointed, the faithful hardworking staff, and many others that supported the Council in its forty-eight years of existence

Two hundred and forty-three (243) captioned, dated, and numbered images were on display, put together using public material held at the Gibraltar National Archives (GNA), together with material donated publicly. The Exhibition will now move online, accessible via the Gibraltar National Archives website, on a date to be announced.

The **City Council Exhibition**, divided into eleven sections, was as follows:

Sections Text by Richard Garcia

Section 1: Forerunners

With Gibraltar becoming British under the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713, the office of Mayor of Gibraltar was abolished. Previously, the Mayor had headed a municipal council. From the late 1720s, there was a realisation that there was indeed a need for a civic authority in Gibraltar to address – initially – issues of refuse collection and paving. Gibraltar and London merchants, as from the late 1720s, attempted to convince the British Government to create a municipal authority. It was proposed that the most important British merchant in Gibraltar, Richard Holroide (whose memorial tablet is in King's Chapel) should be Mayor. Governors who feared they would lose some of their income, which would instead accrue to the municipality, foiled these efforts. Nevertheless, the Governor in the second half of the 18th century, appointed a Scavenger, paid by householders. Each paid according to the value of their property. It was the start of what later became Municipal Rates. It was not until 1865, with the enactment of the Sanitary Order in Council, that a statutory authority was finally created to deal with the issues normally covered by a city council. This first authority was the Sanitary Commission. However, the Sanitary Commissioners were appointed by the Governor, and not elected.

Section 2: Creation & Premises

The decision to create a City Council for Gibraltar, which would be a partly elected body and not just a number of Governor's appointees, was taken in 1921. General Sir Herbert Smith-Dorrien was the Governor who convinced the British Government of the need for this. It was essentially a reform of the Sanitary Commissioners for Gibraltar, and the basic structure of the Sanitary Commission was retained. The responsibilities of the Commission were transferred to the new Council and the Commission's staff were to be retained in their jobs. The initiative needs to be seen in context. Gibraltar had just emerged from World War I, in which the naval dockyard played an important role. It was also recovering from the impact of the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918-9. Britain had just enfranchised women, some of whom were now able to vote for the first time. There was a desire to modernise and introduce some form of suffrage for Gibraltar. The Sanitary Commission's assets were transferred to the new City Council. They included the offices of the Commission at 6 Convent Place (now the seat of Government), which became the original home of the Council. In March 1924, the Gibraltar Government made available to the City Council the house it had bought off the Larios family, situated on Commercial Square (now John Mackintosh Square), and which then became the City Hall. The property was exchanged for the Convent Place property and an Irish Town property owned by the Council.



Section 3: Elections

The most important aspect of the migration from a Sanitary Commission to a City Council is that four of the nine City Councillors were to be elected. This meant that the Governor's appointees on the Council had a built-in majority. However, the people of Gibraltar who were allowed to vote now had a say for the first time in municipal affairs. It was a small, but critical, first step towards Gibraltar's self-determination. Previously, there had only ever been elections to the Junta of the Catholic church in Gibraltar, so secular elections were something new. The model adopted followed the British pattern of creating wards, and having a Councillor elected by a ward – though, in the case of Gibraltar, not necessarily representing the residents of that ward. Four wards were created: (1) Old Town Ward, (2) Castle Ward, (3) Cathedral Ward and (4) Europa Ward. 3,106 persons voted at these first elections, 67% of those on the register. The civilian population of Gibraltar was then 18,540. Over and above the four persons elected to the City Council, five persons were appointed by the Governor, Smith-Dorrien. They were J R Crook, the Director of Public Works, representing the Government; Surgeon-Captain A Maclean representing the Admiralty; Major H E Coad representing the War Department; and two independent persons: A C Greenwood, the Colonial Treasurer and a long-standing member of the Sanitary Commissioners, and George Gaggero, a prominent businessman, who failed to get elected to represent the Old Town Ward.



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Section 4: Personalities

At the first meeting of the City Council, on 6 December 1921, James Andrews-Speed (of the firm Saccone and Speed) was elected Chairman. He was also the brother-in-law of fellow-Councillor George Gaggero. At this stage, the office of Mayor of Gibraltar had not yet been constituted. The other three elected Councillors all enjoyed the support of the Workers' Union. They were Charles Thomas Pou, Gustave Bellotti and Agustin E Huart. Andrews-Speed continued as Chairman until he resigned from the City Council on 31 October 1923. His resignation led to the first by-election, and Dr P F Lyons was elected on 10 December 1923. Then, on 3 January 1924, Dr J Lochhead was elected Chairman. He had been appointed to the Council by the Governor in place of Greenwood, who resigned. This meant that the Chairman was now a Governor's appointee and not an elected representative. Other prominent citizens later occupied the position of Chairman, including Peter Russo and Joshua Hassan. Continuity in the work of the Council and leadership was vested



in the Secretary, later retitled Town Clerk, the most senior Council official. The first Secretary was C W J Bird. The first person to hold the office of Town Clerk was John Malin, followed by Reggie Norton. Finally, in November 1955, the position of Chairman of the Council was modernised with the creation of the office of Mayor of Gibraltar. The first Mayor was Joshua Hassan. Tribute also needs to be paid to the many persons who served as City Councillors and as the staff of the Council

Section 5: Responsibilities

The original responsibilities of the City Council were those inherited from the Sanitary Commissioners. They included the provision of a water supply for Gibraltar (both fresh water and brackish water). By extension from this, the Council was also responsible for firefighting, and the department became known as the City Fire Brigade. The



Council's duties encompassed the safeguarding of Gibraltar's health. Its department, headed by the Medical Officer of Health, had wide responsibilities, including providing vaccinations – a topical issue today. The Council also covered Environmental Health. An element of this was the provision of adequate sewerage, and the cleaning of the public highways. In due course, the Council also assumed responsibility for the provision of an electricity supply for Gibraltar, which included the generation of electricity from King's Bastion power station. After World War II, the Council also took over – for a few years – the provision of gas from the gas works which were on the site of Vineyards. The Council additionally operated the telephone service from 1924, when

the private company run by J A Dagnino decided to bow out. With the advent of the motorcar, the Council licensed all vehicles, and not just the horse-drawn gharries that were licensed by the Sanitary Commissioners. They now included motorised taxis: the first of which began service on 22 December 1924. The Council was also responsible for the streets and created new important thoroughfares, most notably Line Wall Road which crossed the new Smith Dorrien Bridge.

Section 6: Suspension

At the outbreak of World War II, the Governor assumed total control of Gibraltar. This meant that the City Council was suspended. This would have been a problem had it not been for the Town Clerk, John Malin. The Governor had neither the time nor the expertise to manage the aspects of the work of the City Council that had to continue despite the war. Although he appointed four District Commissioners, one for each of the districts into which Gibraltar was divided, which were reminiscent of the original four wards into which Gibraltar was split in 1921 when the first Council elections were held, they were all busy men who had their business interests to attend to at a particularly challenging time. The four District Commissioners were George Gaggero, who was appointed the Chairman of the District Commissioners, Peter Russo, Edward Cottrell and Albert Isola. The appointments were unpaid, and this caused problems for Albert Isola, a lawyer, who had to look after his family and depended on the income from a legal practice that was now very different because of the war. John Malin, who ended up as George Gaggero's son-in-law, worked like a Trojan to ensure that the work of the Council was satisfactorily performed at a time when there was no Council and when he had to take many professional decisions himself. The greatest tribute to his ability is that everything ran smoothly.

Section 7: Housing

The perennial problem faced by the Council was the provision of adequate housing for Gibraltarians, particularly at a time when the population was growing. It was easy to identify the problems, as set out in the report on the housing shortage of 20 December 1924. It was more difficult, and expensive, to find solutions. The Council eventually hit on an appropriate formula to increase the number of people that could be housed on a particular plot of land: building blocks of flats, instead of individual houses. It revolutionised housing in Gibraltar. One of the first blocks to be built was Harington Buildings, named after the Governor of the day. It was necessary for the Council and the Government of Gibraltar to work hand in hand in relation to housing. The



Government provided the finance, and then, once the houses had been built, the Council obtained its income through charging domestic rates to the property occupiers. It was this income that paid for many of the services that the Council offered to the Gibraltar rate payers. Even the Government found it challenging to pay for housing projects, and income tax was introduced for the first time to help pay for the construction of Alameda Estate, just after World War II. The new estates did away with all the provisional housing, such as the Nissen huts on Rosia Road, that was built in order to allow evacuated families to return to Gibraltar.

Section 8: Leisure

Improved working conditions in Gibraltar meant that ordinary people now had more leisure time to enjoy with their friends and families. A particular highlight of the year was the Annual Fair, which was run by the Council. There were also Verbenas. People knew how to have a good time. In the summer, sea bathing had started to become popular. This led to a demand for better facilities, which the Council decided to meet. The old model was retained: segregated bathing in the town area. However, greatly improved facilities were introduced at the handsome, new Montagu Sea Bathing Pavilion that was built by the Council, which boasted a pier and a raft anchored off-shore. In the 1930s, the proximity of the Montagu Pavilion to the town area made it hugely popular, as it was much closer to where most people lived. The beaches were the responsibility of the Council, which also granted concessions to erect beach tents. The beaches were greatly developed in the mid-1960s, when the campaign against Gibraltar by Spain was gaining momentum. The British Government, through its Overseas Development Aid programme, made money available for creating promenades at Catalan Bay and Rosia Bay. In the winter months, the public gardens were very popular before World War II. Both the Alameda Gardens and the Victoria Gardens, on the isthmus, were well patronised. Part of the Alameda Gardens then became Alameda Estate, and the airport was built on the Victoria Gardens. Time had moved on.



Section 9: Freedom of the City



With the creation of the office of Mayor of Gibraltar, it was now possible to institute the distinction of granting the Freedom of the City to Gibraltarians and others who had achieved particular pre-eminence. In the time that the City Council was operational (1921-1969), the grant of the Freedom of the City was only awarded once, in 1962. The recipient of the honour was Gustavo Bacarisas. He was born in Gibraltar on 23 September 1873. He painted a number of his important works in Gibraltar, and he was commissioned to paint a view of Gibraltar from Western Beach which was presented to Her Majesty the Queen when she visited Gibraltar in May 1954. At the express wish of the Queen, the painting continues to hang

in Gibraltar. Bacarisas also had an important international career, in Argentina and Spain, where his work was much admired. The Mayor of Gibraltar at the time of the conferral of the Freedom of the City was Joshua Hassan, and he himself was later made a Freeman of Gibraltar in December 1996.

Section 10: Concepts

The City Council was never short of ideas for new projects. The problem is that many of them never came to fruition, probably for lack of available funding. There were three main types of concept drawings created by the gifted draughtsmen employed by the Council. The first was intended to meet the perennial problem that plagued the Council, the lack of sufficient quality housing to meet the demands of the growing population of Gibraltar that demanded better housing and the discarding of communal services tenements. The second class of concept drawings was for new offices for the various departments that made up the City Council, which were providing more services than ever. Office accommodation was often cramped and working conditions were consequently poorer than was desired. The third type of drawings was for projects to improve the enjoyment of leisure time, something that ordinary people were demanding ever more vociferously. They included sporting facilities and bathing facilities for the summer. This section depicts what might have been, had the projects gone ahead as planned. Some of them would have resulted in the loss of valued buildings of heritage interest, such as the Main Guard on John Mackintosh Square, now the home of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. What comes across strongly through the more interesting concept drawings for projects that were not adopted is that Gibraltar would have acquired a number of landmark buildings which today we would value for their heritage value.

Section 11: Abolition

The City Council was abolished as a result of the growing empowerment of the people of Gibraltar and the inevitable constitutional change that was not only required but also deserved by the Gibraltarians. With the projected creation of the House of Assembly in 1969, and the proposed vesting in the Government of Gibraltar of far more wide-ranging powers in relation to internal matters than had ever been granted previously to it by the British Government, it was also a time to reflect on whether the scale of Gibraltar merited having a separate Government and a City

Council. It had made sense that the Government, which was originally funded by London, and staffed by the Colonial Service in respect of senior positions, should be kept separate from the City Council which was locally staffed and locally funded, through domestic and commercial rates, as well as receiving Government subventions and raising capital through the issue of debentures. When these divisions between the Government and Council ceased to apply, the argument in favour of an amalgamation of both bodies gathered momentum. Also, economies of scale could be achieved through amalgamation. Gibraltar welcomed the Constitution of 1969 which modernised the public sector significantly, even though this also meant the end of the City Council. One element of the old Council nevertheless survived the amalgamation. Gibraltar continued to have a Mayor, but it was no longer an executive office: it had become the much-loved ceremonial office that we cherish today.

Future activities: 2022 will see the GNA undertake three commemorative exhibitions:

1. 40th Anniversary of the Liberation of the Falkland Islands (Orange Bastion Centre April 28 – May 27)
2. HM Queen Elizabeth II, Platinum Jubilee (Gustavo Bacarisas Gallery June 1 –July 22)
3. 80th Anniversary of Operation Torch, World War II (Orange Bastion Centre November – permanent)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, for your continued support and to add that we are privileged to be given the opportunity to fill these columns for you every year.

Gibraltar and the 1921 Census

Paul Blake BA DipGen FSG

The eagerly awaited 1921 Census for England and Wales was released on 6 January this year. When it was taken, it was the most comprehensive record of the population so far. In accordance with the Census Act 1920, the enumeration originally had been planned to take place in the UK and Overseas Territories, including Gibraltar, on 24 April 1921. But industrial turmoil had made that impossible – particularly the Miners' Federation had planned to strike on 15 April which, if it had come off, would have produced a distorted view of the population. On 21 May 1921, Winston Churchill, Secretary of State for the Colonies, informed the Governor of Gibraltar that it had been decided that the 1921 Census would now be taken, simultaneously with that of the United Kingdom, on Sunday 19 June 1921. Scotland also moved its census to the same date. In Ireland, because of the ongoing conflicts, no census was taken in 1921.

The enumeration of the civil population of Gibraltar was undertaken under the provisions of 'The Census of the Population Ordinance 1868'. However, that of the naval and military population was taken by the British authorities and, as a consequence, only the records of the civil and port population are held in Gibraltar, at the Gibraltar National Archives (GNA).

Main Street, Gibraltar in 1920s



In 1921, the enumerators were no longer the Sanitary Inspectors: for the first time, the police, who had been keeping records of the population for some time, undertook the task. Four Town Wards (Old Town, Castle, Cathedral and Europa) were comprised of 27 Police Districts; North Front and Catalan Bay formed a fifth Ward.

The Registrar of Births had been appointed to be the Census Compiler and on 16 September the

Governor, General Sir Horace Lockwood Smith-Dorrien, informed Churchill that the total population (Civil, Naval and Military) was 22,095. This total differs slightly to the official statistics compiled by HFJ Maxted, Registrar of Births and Officer appointed to compile the Census, published in 1921 in *The Census of Gibraltar taken on the 19th of June, 1921* (Garrison Library Printing Establishment, 1921).

This records a total population of 22,018, made up of 18,061 civilians, 479 'port' people; plus 3478 service personnel and their families: 546 Royal Navy and 2932 Military personnel and their families – crews of His Majesty's ships not permanently stationed in Gibraltar, were not included in these totals.

The schedules varied from those used in England and Wales asking different questions of the population.

LIST OF THE MEMBERS OF THIS FAMILY, OF BOARDERS, OF SERVANTS, AND OF VISITORS, WHO SLEPT OR ABODE IN THIS DWELLING ON THE NIGHT OF SUNDAY, APRIL 19 th 1921.											
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
NAME and SURNAME.	RELATIONSHIP to HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD.	CONDITION as to MARRIAGE.	SEX.	AGE Last Birthday.	PERSONAL OCCUPATION.	WHERE BORN.			RELIGION.	EDUCATION.	If (1) Deaf and Dumb, (2) Blind, (3) Lame, Inebriate or Feeble-minded.
<i>No Persons ABSENT on the night of Sunday, April 19th, to be entered here; EXCEPT those who may be TRAVELLING or out of work during that night (and one not resident elsewhere), and also SEVERAL HOME on MONDAY, APRIL 25TH.</i>	State whether Head, or Wife, Son, Daughter, or other Relative, Boarder, Servant, or Visitor.	Write either "Married," "Widowed," "Single," or "Divorced," opposite the Name of all Persons except Young Children.	Write "M" or "F" opposite Males and Females.	For Infants under one Year state the age in Months, writing "Under 1 Month," "1 Month," "2 Months," &c.	Before filling up Columns 6, 7, 8, and 9, you are requested to read carefully the Special Instructions printed on the other side.	Employer.	Worker.	Write the precise name of the particular Colony, State or Country; and if also a British Subject, add "British Subject" or "Naturalized British Subject" in the case may be.	State— (a) Whether able to read and write. (b) Able to read only. (c) Unable to read or write.	Write the precise Infirmary, if any, opposite the name of the Person; and if the Infirmary dates from childhood, add "from childhood." Do not use such a general term as "Asylum" or "Leprosy."	

Headings of the Gibraltar 1921 Census Schedules

13,874 of the civilian population were born in Gibraltar, 1344 in the UK and Ireland with 1463 further British subjects, of which the largest number, 289, were born in Malta. There was a total of 1380 foreign subjects, the majority, 1193, born in Spain. It was thought that many British subjects resident in La Linea may have crossed the border on 'Census night' in order to be included.

The 1921 population was significantly lower to that recorded in the 1911 census: 19,120 civilians, 466 'port' people and 441 Royal Navy and 5340 military, totalling 25,367. The biggest decrease, 2303, was in the number of military personnel; this was mainly as a result of the withdrawal of an Infantry battalion and reductions in other Corps and Units since 1911, a situation partially reversed by the arrival of another Infantry battalion early in September 1921. The Royal Navy establishment had increased by 105.

The decrease in the civil population, from the 1911 to the 1921 Census, was 1046, the majority, of which, 664, were foreign subjects. However, the records of births and deaths 1912-1920 in Gibraltar showed a net increase of 718. Therefore, the total exodus from Gibraltar was nearer 2000.

Nineteen religions were recorded: the majority, 14,845 were Catholic, followed by 1846 Church of England. Three stated they were 'Confucians' and two others were 'Free Thinkers'. As was to be expected, the occupations recorded were extremely diverse and included one billiard marker, an Indian monk, 12 dentists and assistants, 20 hawkers and peddlers, 30 inmates of the lunatic asylum, 109 'seamstresses', 6 photographers and 2 piano tuners.

Since 1920, census records have been closed for 100 years, therefore the decennial census returns are not released until 100 full years have elapsed and the 1921 Census entered the public domain earlier this year. The returns for England and Wales became available online only on 6 January on the commercial website Findmypast www.findmypast.org.uk. Although access to the indexes are free, there is a charge to view the transcript and digitized images of the schedules (£2.50 and £3.50). However, access to the 1921 Census online at Findmypast will be free at The National Archives at Kew, The National Library of Wales and Manchester Central Library.

Table IV, Occupations of the Civil Population of the City and Territory, Males: published in 'The Census of Gibraltar taken on the 19th June, 1921'

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TABLE IV.

Occupations of the CIVIL POPULATION of the City and Territory.

MALES.

Accountants	21	Brought forward ...	368
Analysts	1	Cab Drivers	121
Apprentices (Trades not declared)	7	Cab Owners	29
Architects, Builders and Contractors	11	Cabinet Makers	1
Athletic Outfitters	2	Canteen Keepers and Assistants	22
Auctioneers	3	Caretakers and Assistants	24
Bailiffs and Deputy Marshals	1	Carpenters and Apprentices	68
Bakers and Assistants	34	Cart and Transport Drivers	114
Bakery Managers	1	Cart Owners	1
Bankers and Assistants	5	Cartwrights and Wheelwrights	3
Barbers and Hairdressers	19	Cashiers	9
Barmen and Assistants	25	Caterers	2
Barriers and Solicitors	10	Caulkers	5
Bath-keepers	3	Cemetery Keepers	1
Billiard Markers	1	Chancellors, Consular	1
Blacksmiths, Locksmiths and Apprentices	50	Chemists, Druggists, Dispensers and Assistants	21
Boilermakers and Apprentices	56	Chief Justices	1
Boarding and Lodging House Managers	1	Church Wardens	1
Boarding Officers	3	Cigar and Cigarette Makers	4
Boatmen	56	Cinematograph Operators	2
Bookbinders	1	Civil Engineers and Valuers	2
Book-keepers	7	Civil Officials and Servants	30
Brewer's Agents	1	Cleaners, Market and others	10
Brokers	14	Clergymen, Ministers and Priests	17
Bumbotmen	23		
Butchers and Assistants	12		
Carried forward ...	368	Carried forward ...	857

As part of the Gibraltar Government's policy to digitize the archives and inhabitants of Gibraltar, the Gibraltar National Archives (GNA) published the complete Gibraltar 1921 Census online in early January.

www.nationalarchives.gi/1921.aspx.

These are free to access by anyone interested around the world. Unlike earlier census returns for Gibraltar, the dataset is currently searchable by surname only. The information does not link to digitized images of the schedules, but it is hoped that these may be added to the website later this year enabling individual household schedules to be examined.

GNA states a figure of 18,700 records (individuals) recording the civil population in the dataset. This is different to the total published in 1921 (City & Port) 18,540). Such variations are to be expected when manual checking and calculating was the only option.

FULL DETAILS

ID: 3409
 DIVISION: 1
 DISTRICT: 10
 HOUSENO: No DATA
 ADDRESS: COMMERCIAL SQUARE
 NOOFPERSONS: 19
 SURNAME: CALDERON
 FORENAME: MANUEL
 RELATIONTOHEAD: SERVANT
 MARITALSTATUS: MARRIED
 SEX: M
 AGE: 38
 OCCUPATION: BUTLER DOMESTIC
 EMPLOYER: No DATA
 WORKER: No DATA
 WORKINGOWNACCOUNT: No DATA
 BIRTHPLACE: LOS BARRIOS SPAIN
 RELIGION: ROMAN CATHOLIC
 EDUCATION: READ & WRITE
 DISABILITIES: No DATA
 NO_OF_ROOMS: 32
 REMARKS: No DATA

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

FAMILY NAME GRID

ID	SURNAME	FORENAME	RELATIONTOHEAD	HOUSENO	ADDRESS
SELECT	3409	CALDERON	MANUEL	SERVANT	No DATA COMMERCIAL SQUARE
SELECT	4654	CALDERON	JOHN	HEAD	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4655	CALDERON	ENRIQUE	FATHER	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4656	CALDERON	MERCEDES	DAUGHTER	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4657	CALDERON	LUIS	SON	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4658	CALDERON	HERMINIA	DAUGHTER	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4659	CALDERON	JUAN	SON	39 CASTLE RAMP
SELECT	4660	CALDERON	VICTOR	SON	39 CASTLE RAMP

Result of search for the surname Calderon in the GNA 1921 Census dataset

Several years ago, the surviving Census Returns and Inhabitants Lists held at GNA were microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, including the 1921 and 1931 Returns. The 1921 Census film, #172937, is only available to view at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, with the Library of the Society of Genealogists in London also having a copy.

A specific section of the 1921 England and Wales Census is devoted to the armed forces overseas, which includes Gibraltar, recorded on special NM (Naval & Military) schedules. Three Gibraltar household schedules were used instead of the NM schedules for the crew of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Bacchus*, a stores ship that had docked in Gibraltar for three days. The return was rejected by the Registrar of Births and forwarded to the Census Office in London.

First name(s) ▾	Last name ▾	Birth year ▾	Birth place ▾	Parish	Registration district ▾	County ▾
Leonard Francis	Booker	1901	Berkshire, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
Edwin	Booth	1883	Harrogate, Yorkshire, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
Henry	Booth	1902	Yorkshire, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
Thomas	Booth	1900	St Pancras, Middlesex, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
Arthur	Boryer	1900	London, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
Charles Herbert	Boston	1895	Kensington, Middlesex, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army
William Charles	Bott	1900	Hull, Yorkshire, England	? Gibraltar	Army	Army

Entries in the Findmypast index to RG 15/28115 Army in Gibraltar

The Army Returns for Gibraltar (RG 15/28115) include 3043 individuals, covering both personnel and their families, 10 of whom were born in Gibraltar ¹. The Navy Returns, for ships not permanently stationed in Gibraltar, and the Royal Naval Hospital, (RG 15/28151) include 249 individuals, 5 being born in Gibraltar ².

The 1921 Census Return for England and Wales naturally includes many individuals who recorded their place of birth in Gibraltar. In total there were 4127 such individuals, of whom 2206 were female and 1920 were male, with one unstated. ³ Of these, 511 were children born 1911-1921. This is a significant increase from 1911 when the total recorded as born in Gibraltar was just 759. ⁴ The full socio-economic and other reasons – which must include the disruption caused by the First World War – for this major emigration from Gibraltar between the wars, and the creation of a Gibraltarian diaspora, possibly deserves deeper investigation.

NOT ALL G&Ts AND COCKTAIL PARTIES

Christopher Lunn

on his time as Military Assistant to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief (1988-1990)

Where To Next?

Over the summer of 1987 I was serving in the British Army in Germany wondering where I was to be posted next. I had been told that I was being run for the post of Military Assistant to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar but not to get my hopes up as the post was on rotation between all 3 Services, and the present incumbent was also in the Army. Shortly afterwards, I was flown out to Gibraltar for an interview with the Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Terry. The interview seemed to go well, but little did I realise that I was about to be given a taste of the eventful time I would later have. I was arrested!

During a lull in the interview process, I had taken myself off for a walk around Mediterranean Steps and found that I had strayed into a military security exercise. I was clearly highly suspect as I had no identification on me and could not answer even the most basic questions about Gibraltar. I was escorted down to the Central Police Station to be quizzed by the then Commissioner of Police, Joe Canepa. The glint in his eye gave the game away that I had been set up. No damage was done however, and it was subsequently confirmed that I got the job. And what a job it was.

¹ Sourced from Findmypast.co.uk

² ibid

³ ibid

⁴ Sourced from Ancestry.co.uk

The Day Job

I took over in January 1988 and our family moved into 306 Main Street which was still an MOD property at the time. The title of Military Assistant to the Governor and Commander-in-Chief Gibraltar (MA for short) is something of a misnomer as the 'Military' part of the title was not that extensive. With 3 senior military officers heading up each Service in Gibraltar - the Flag Officer Gibraltar (a rear-admiral), the Deputy Fortress Commander (a brigadier) and the Air Force Commander (an air commodore) - the majority of the Governor's work was political and so that was reflected in my own responsibilities to manage and advise on his work programme.

I am sure that the more recent Governors, including our Chairman, would look enviously at the size of the Convent staff in the late 1980s. The photo on the right is of the visit of HRH The Duke of Kent in October 1989. It does not even include the Deputy Governor and his small staff who were based in the Government of Gibraltar offices in Convent Place or the 3 Gibraltarian Honorary ADCs! It does however show the substantial number of house staff needed to cope with the Governor's extensive social and entertaining responsibilities.



In those days, there was a reasonably regular routine for the central Convent staff. Sharp at 8.30am every day apart from Sundays, the Governor, MA and ADC met to discuss that day's programme. Sometimes the Deputy Governor and/or Chief of Staff would join us if there was something very specific to discuss. Every week the Governor would also hold a Heads of Service meeting that included the Deputy Governor, the Commissioner of Police, and the head of the civilian Property Services Agency. For obvious reasons this was a top level, strategic meeting. The MA was the secretary and so I was privy to all that was discussed. I do not want to reveal any secrets, but it was this meeting that allowed inter-Service rivalry to exhibit itself in all its glory!

The Political Situation

After a couple of months, I had fallen into the trap of thinking that I might have got to the stage of understanding the role of The Convent and my part within it, when there were two seismic events in the space of just 3 weeks: the shooting of the 3 IRA terrorists on 6th March, followed on 25th March by Joe Bossano and the Gibraltar Socialist and Labour Party sweeping to power. Two events that could not be more different but both were to dominate the whole of 1988 and reverberate for many years afterwards.

Of course, the IRA shootings was the most significant international event that had taken place in Gibraltar for a very long time. The event itself and the aftermath was inevitably an extremely busy but fascinating time for anyone connected with The Convent as this was the focus for quite a lot of the action. This article is not the right place to say any more apart from a reminder of the tragic personal consequences that it had for Sir Peter and Lady Terry two years later when the IRA attempted to assassinate him.



The Guard Mounting Ceremony that the IRA planned to attack, taking place as usual on Tuesday 8th March 1988 just 2 days after the shootings



The Gibraltar Chronicle of Friday 25th March 1988

Running in parallel with all this hectic activity was the very different relationship and way of doing business between The Convent and the UK Government on the one hand, and No 6 Convent Place on the other. Of course, the differing views of a developing relationship with Spain was the backcloth to almost everything, but the future of the MOD in Gibraltar was also a core issue. At the beginning of 1988 there was still a strong military presence with a Resident UK Battalion (initially 1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment and then 3rd Battalion The Royal Green Jackets) in addition to the Gibraltar Regiment; a very active RAF Gibraltar; and an even more active Naval Base with its regular visiting warships either in transit or on training.

All of this began to change in January 1989 when the UK Government finally announced that there would be a very substantial withdrawal of military assets. Tension between the UK and the Government of Gibraltar inevitably increased, and at times was more confrontational than it had been previously. In the main the battleground was over how to compensate the Gibraltar economy for the loss of MOD spending power, and the unquenchable demand of the Gibraltar Government to acquire all the considerable MOD property assets, particularly the housing, as quickly as possible. And, of course, acquire them at no cost to the Gibraltar Government. The discussions and negotiations might have been much more tricky if the Governor and the Chief Minister had not had such a respectful relationship. It was tough but cordial.



Joe Bossano, Sir Peter and Lady Terry at ease

I will choose my words carefully, but the tension between The Convent and the Government of Gibraltar was often far less than the tension between the 3 individual Services.

One of the many advantages of the enclosed military environment, and the fact that both the Resident UK Battalion and the Gibraltar Regiment had their own bands, was that there was a seemingly endless stream of ceremonial events. Because the MA never had any significant part to play, they were all there to be enjoyed to the full - which I certainly did. The Queen's Birthday Parade was obviously the major annual event but there also were the biannual Ceremony of the Keys, the weekly Ceremony of Guard Mounting along with investitures, Beating Retreats, band concerts and many other events. I was

also fortunate to be in Gibraltar for the ceremonies for the departure of one Governor and the arrival of another in late 1989. It was particularly special to be able to witness the Swearing In of Admiral Sir Derek Reffell.



*The swearing in of Admiral Sir Derek Reffell as Governor and Commander-in-Chief in the House of Assembly
1st December 1989*

Handing over the Keys of the Fortress to the Governor is the Acting Governor, Bill Quantrill. Also on the rostrum are: the Chief Justice, (later Sir) Alister Kneller, and the Speaker, (later Sir) Bob Peliza.

Not All Work and No Play

Of course, our 2 years in Gibraltar was a wonderful time for the family, particularly as we arrived with one son and left with two. Our younger son, Charles, was born at the Royal Naval Hospital and so is our permanent reminder of those happy days. This photo shows that his brother, Alexander, was rather less happy at the prospect of no longer being Top Dog.



Anyone who has lived overseas in a place that is remotely interesting will be aware that almost everyone whom one knows well or even vaguely will want to come and stay. Hot bedding became the rule of the day when one set of visitors would fly out on the aircraft that had brought in the next lot. My wife, Valerie, got the tedium of changing bedding and making the house look as though it had been specially prepared for the new arrivals, down to a fine art. The very full visitors' book we left Gibraltar with, is testimony to one of the most enjoyable aspects of living in Gibraltar.

When we arrived in 1988, the border had been open for 3 years. Although many of those who were stationed in Gibraltar when the border had been closed looked back rather wistfully at the camaraderie and community spirit that existed at that time, we were very grateful that we were able to explore the whole of southern Spain for holidays, long weekends or just days out. That said, our 2 years were characterised by the random and usually extreme delays at the border whenever Spain felt the need to flex its muscles. And this machismo was shown regularly. Plus ça change.... (or whatever the equivalent is in Spanish.)

Our freedom from the confines of the Rock was also made possible by use of the Governor's Barge. For us it was a novelty and a privilege to have use of her and we certainly did that. It was a great escape, whether to get away from the claustrophobia that one sometimes felt, or to go fishing, to seek out the dolphins, or entertain our visitors. On one memorable family occasion we went round to the East of the Rock with a troop of Alexander's friends to celebrate his 8th birthday. I have carried the guilt of that trip ever since; in fact until 2018, when I confessed to Clive Finlayson that some of the footprints going up the piles of sand in Gorham's and Vanguard Caves may not be Neanderthal! Clive reassured me that many, many other Gibraltarian feet had done the same.

Final Thoughts

It has been inevitable in writing this article that a host of memories have come flooding back. From a professional, personal and family point of view, our time in Gibraltar was a genuine highlight. A much-overused expression, but it was a privilege to experience the uniqueness of Gibraltar at that time. So what in particular sticks in my mind?

- First and foremost I would place the friendships we made, both with those lucky enough to live in Gibraltar and those military people who like us were just passing through. Some lifelong friendships.
- The experience of being close to the tumultuous events of March 1988 is right up at the top too.
- The sheer pleasure of doing a job that was like no other in the Army.
- It would also be very remiss of me not to include the addition of one more son in this list.
- But as everyone who has experienced Gibraltar knows, it has the knack of throwing up some bizarre memories. One that I certainly will never forget was watching our ancient Rock Runner, known affectionately as Farty the Fiat, being dispatched down the rubbish chute at Europa Point into the Mediterranean at the end of its long life.

And yes, there was still time for G&Ts and cocktail parties. Those were the days!

Gibraltar recollections

Roger and Anne Taylor

When the border with Spain reopened fully in 1985, I was then a partner in the Yorkshire-based law firm of Brooke North & Goodwin. We were the first English Solicitors to open a fully-manned office in Gibraltar, staffed by English solicitors who also qualified in Gibraltar. The office was on the corner of Irish Town and Irish Steps, opposite Sacarello's coffee shop, where my early morning Americano came from. My late father was a Leading Air Mechanic in the Fleet Air Arm, on HMS *Furious*, part of Somerville's Force H; he was often on shore patrol duties. When he visited us, he said that Irish Town was a lot more respectable than when he had last seen it!

I and other partners of the firm visited regularly, then staying at the superb Rock Hotel, and in 1990, my wife Anne – a Chartered Librarian – and I moved to Gibraltar, to manage the office and develop the business, living in the firm's apartment in Marina Bay.

I had already applied to be admitted to the local bar, which I could do as an English Solicitor. In due course I attended before the Disciplinary Committee, comprising of Sir Joshua Hassan, A.B. Serfaty and the then Attorney General. Sir Joshua said he assumed we would be living in Sotogrande, with all the other ex-pats; I said no, if I was to develop business for Gibraltar then it was important we lived there, which we did. The Committee decided I was a suitable person and in due course I appeared before the Chief Justice, took the Oath of Allegiance to the Court and to her Majesty the Queen and it was ordered that I be admitted. My office prepared the order, £10 stamp duty was paid, and the order submitted to the court office; Mario Balban, the then Registrar, signed the order.

My wife Anne became aware of the Gibraltar Garrison Library, through an item in her professional journal. Anne volunteered her services and worked with Jon Searle (Dominique Searle's father) at the Library; she helped Jon reorganize the stock, bringing some order to this enormous and valuable historical resource. The Garrison Library was the responsibility of the Royal Naval Officer commanding service children's schools, then Bob Cribb. I met CBF (Commander British Forces) Geoffrey Biggs. I was invited to become an associate member of the Wardroom at HMS *Rooke* and did property and other legal work for the Garrison Library. My firm acted on the transfer of the *Gibraltar Chronicle* newspaper, (said to be the second oldest newspaper in the world) to its management, which was quite an historic occasion.

The Dell at Alameda Gardens



Anne is a keen gardener; she volunteered to help John Cortes and his team, who had recently taken over responsibility for the Alameda Gardens. Anne assisted with the clearance of the Dell, under the bridge, and its planting. The Castle and Key that sits there (and we understand is still there) had been donated by Lionel Codali's family years ago and the ceremony held on that part of the garden's reopening was memorable.

Our three years in Gibraltar passed quickly, with a busy professional and social life. I had been asked to speak at a meeting of the Gibraltar Rotary Club by Charlie Galliano and then I became a member. One weekend, working with the Gibraltar Regiment and the Fire Service, I helped organize a sponsored abseil from the eastern end of the Rock; my wife and all the office team took part.

The firm's business prospered, working for clients in Gibraltar, including local banks and accountants, people from along the coast and internationally. We also managed many of the then Gibraltar Exempt Companies, used by clients for various purposes. The firm had five local

employees and we had an excellent professional reputation.

1992 abseiling event – Anne Taylor, Jenny Wiley, Sunita Aswani (now Bautista) and Polly Galliano

Marina Bay was a good place to live, with a private pool; we lived on our balcony in the summer and the Little Mermaid Danish Restaurant and Da Paolo's were on the doorstep. We learnt a lot about Southern Spain and even more about Gibraltar and its



fascinating history, from the tunnels to the top of the Rock. We were members of the Ornithological and Natural History Society and visited some amazing places with them. Concerts in St Michael's Cavern, the Convent and the John Mackintosh Hall stand out, there was always so much going off! The Ceremony of the Keys, the Queen's Birthday Parade, changing the guard at the Convent, the Three Kings Parade, the Remembrance Day Parade and Service, Air Day and just watching the aircraft taking off from the airfield, all very enjoyable and memorable. We used to watch the Nimrod dragging itself into the sky from the airfield, little knowing then that the aircraft, when retired, would be based at the Yorkshire Air Museum near York.

I said the second grace at the final Royal Navy dinner in the Wardroom at HMS *Rooke*, before the Wardroom became the combined officers' Mess for the three services on the Rock, a wonderful event. When we came to Gibraltar, we knew a handful of people. At our leaving reception at the Garrison library, over a hundred friends, and clients, business and professional connections attended. Due to the generosity of the manager of the Rock Hotel we stayed in a suite overlooking the Bay, the night before flying back to England, with a huge amount of excess baggage!

A 15-year-old on the Rock

Peter Davis

Assuming conditions allow, my wife and I will return to Gibraltar in February 2022 and some 55 years will have passed since my first trip. Have things changed? ...er, just a bit!

Readers of this magazine will hardly need me to describe the transformation, but I have been thinking back to that visit as a wide-eyed 15-year-old on my first trip to “foreign parts” and the impact it had on my life, actually in some rather odd ways.

Firstly, why Gibraltar? Well, my uncle served with the navy medical corps and met a lovely Gibraltarian maid whom he married in 1944 after a 10-month romance. They had two daughters and lived in the UK for a while but finally settled back on the Rock in the early 60’s following a Gibraltar lottery win.

When my mother, father and I visited the family they lived in a 3rd floor flat on Willis’s Road, cosy when we were all there, but very welcoming. The first cup of tea on arrival signalled the first life-long change for me. It was topped with Carnation condensed milk and made me shudder, so it was black tea or coffee forever after that.

Mr Len Walker and his bride Aida in 1944

With my uncle at work in the dockyards we set off to Eastern Beach most afternoons. I’ll never forget cramming onto the ancient bus, sweltering hot, with windbreak, beach chairs, towels, and food, lucky to get a seat, then watching the road pass beneath our feet through rusty holes in the floor. On the trip home I can still hear the crunch of gears and the groaning engine as it laboured back up Willis’s Road. Before we left the beach, we always caught up with Salvador, the nut man on his cycle buggy, for salted peanuts and almonds: another lifelong addiction.

Breakfast the following morning was a real treat when the baker hollered “panadero” as he arrived in the courtyard below. We lowered our basket out of the window and it returned minutes later full of beautiful warm crusty rolls.

The courtyard between my family’s apartment and the more modern ones opposite was a playground for a dozen or more children. Flirtation between the teenagers across the void between the two buildings was inevitable. I made the fatal mistake of expressing an interest in a shy and rather gawky girl named Mercy in a facing window and was ribbed “mercilessly” by my cousins thereafter. Footnote: When I returned 3 years later Mercy had blossomed into a very attractive 18-year-old, but I had left an even more desirable girlfriend at home who later became my wife.

Looking back, another important personal influence can be dated to that visit. We took the ferry over to Tangiers for a day trip, a real eye-opener for a polite English family and the first experience of Morocco and indeed Africa. There was much poverty and for us a severe culture shock at the time. There was that discomforting feeling of an underlying threat, but it led to a certain enchantment with the Muslim world that we have enjoyed ever since. We have made numerous trips back to Morocco.

The narrow streets and alleyways of the Upper Rock fascinated me. I invariably walked up Willis’s Road to descend via Castle Steps. About halfway down, where they widened out, there was always a rather ripe smell from the drains. Wherever I’ve travelled in the world since then, if I pick up that nasty whiff, I’m straight back to Castle Steps (333 of them to pavement level if anyone is interested)..

Another lifelong obsession was born during that first trip. When we returned from the beach at weekends, we switched on Spanish TV in time for the bullfights. It was the era of El Cordobes, known



as the Spanish Beatle, whose flamboyant style broke the traditional mould of the *feria* in the sixties. I was spellbound. This fascination lasted the next 50 years and finally in my retirement I have the time to return to the “bulls” in person.

As a 15-year-old at home I was the only person amongst my chums that couldn't swim. I had been to numerous classes and come to the conclusion that I'd never learn. However, the miracle finally happened in the pool with the concrete dolphins at Camp Bay: I felt pretty stupid, the big boy with the inflatable wings on his arms, but something suddenly clicked and within thirty minutes I had the amazing experience of swimming for the first time.

Looking back now, the most powerful long-term effect of that first visit was an addiction to the Rock itself. My wife and I have returned countless times, not just to visit the family but to soak up the unique atmosphere and to observe with amazement the way Gib has changed. Residents will have mixed feelings about the pace of development, but personally I find it exciting and mostly for the good. We'll keep coming back.

Solomon Dupeer – hero of Gibraltar 1704?

Paul Blake BA DipGen FSG

Mr Solomon Dupeer, a gentleman of Pontefract, was buried in the Holy Cross church, Darrington, West Yorkshire on 22 August 1732. His widow, Elizabeth was buried alongside him on 3 February 1744/45. Both Solomon and Elizabeth are commemorated on a monument within the church:

In Hope of a Blessed Resurrection
Underneath
Are Deposited the Remains
Of
SOLOMON DUPEER
Late of the Parish of Pontefract Gent.
Who departed this life y^e 20th day of Augst
In the Year of Our Lord MDCCXXXII
...
The Remains of ELIZABETH
Relict of the Above said
SOLOMON DUPEER
Are also here deposited
She died January ye 31st 1744
Aged 78 Years.

Demonstrably, they were a family of some substance. Darrington is a little under 3 miles south-east of Pontefract but why Solomon and Elizabeth chose to be buried there isn't clear.

Solomon's oft-stated connection with Gibraltar is curious, relying, it appears on tradition and folklore rather than any substantive evidence – which doesn't necessarily make the tales untrue.

The earliest published account of the connection of Solomon Dupeer with Gibraltar was in 1917, in Joseph Smith Fletcher's *Memorials of a Yorkshire Parish: an historical sketch of the parish of Darrington*:

“... another man buried in Darrington Church who, if not a stranger to the village, had no more than a friendly acquaintance with it. Under date August 22, 1732, is the entry "Mr. Solomon Dupeer of the

parish of Pontefract gent." Now around Solomon Dupeer, or, as it should be, Dupier, hangs one of the prettiest of mysteries, a mystery which would have entirely rejoiced Robert Louis Stevenson. Early in the eighteenth century there came to Pontefract, then a sufficiently out-of-the-way town for any man to lie snug in, a gentleman who had certainly ample means wherewith to cultivate the leisure and retirement which he evidently sought. Either with him at his first coming, or very soon afterwards, came



another gentleman, one Captain Lay, also evidently provided for.

Darrington Church

They settled down; they lived comfortable lives; they cultivated the acquaintance of the townfolk; they took— at least Solomon Dupier did – a great interest in Darrington, to which they doubtless often wandered for a quiet morning

walk. Pontefract, ever since there is any record of it, was always a town for gossip and scandal: the Pontefract folk began to talk about these new residents — possibly somebody heard something. But, either during their lives, or very soon after they were dead, a tradition, said to be founded on solid fact, sprang up in Pontefract about Captain Lay and Solomon Dupier. It was said that they were either members of the Spanish garrison in Gibraltar, or residents in the town, at the time of the siege of that great Mediterranean fortress by the English forces under Sir George Rooke in 1704, that they betrayed Gibraltar to the English, and that our Government had awarded uncommonly handsome pensions to them for their services. So much for the legend — what is of real truth is that after Solomon Dupier's death in 1732 his widow, " in a cheerful and generous compliance with his generous intention," built the Market Cross at Pontefract, on the site of the old Cross of St. Oswald. For some reason or other Dupier had also generous dispositions towards Darrington, and by his last will he left to the poor of the parish four acres of land at Carleton, near Snaith, the income from which is still distributed in charity. His widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Dupier, presented to Darrington Church the communion plate which did service until 1880: a cup and paten of silver, a pewter flagon, and two plates. The cup was probably made by a Leeds silversmith about the year 1700; the paten, which bears the inscription giving the name of the donor, was made by John Fawdery of London in 1706. Mrs. Dupier died in 1734, and was buried in Darrington Church, February 3rd. There is a monument in the church which commemorates herself and her husband."

Fletcher's comment, 'Dupeer, or, as it should be, Dupier' is questionable, although it is possible that Dupeer was a variant of Du Peer, Dupeere or Dupier – all of which are very rare in England.

'Captain Lay' would appear to be Captain John Laye, who died in Pontefract in March 1769/70. He was married to Magdalen and father of Captain Francis Laye, 31st Regiment of Foot (1723-1789). It is not clear if John Lay(e) was a captain in the British Army or Royal Navy, or that he had any connection with Gibraltar. A John Laye is recorded in Charles Dalton's *English army lists and commission registers, 1661-1714*: vol.5, 1702-1707:

Brigadier Howe's ⁵ Regiment of Foot [15th Regt. of Foot], [1704]

John Laye to be Ens. 20 Jun 1706 o.

⁵ Emmanuel Scrope Howe (1663-1709)

o = War Office MS. Army List for 1709

and vol.6, 1707-1714:

Brigadier Howe's Regiment of Foot [15th Regt. of Foot], [1704]

Jno Laye ⁹ to be Capt. 23 Apr 1711 w.

⁹ See Malplaquet Roll in Part II

w = War Office MS. Army List for 1715

Brigadier Howe's Regiment was not at Gibraltar in 1704. John Laye may have been promoted from the ranks in 1706, and possibly transferred to Brigadier Howe's Regiment, but this is very unlikely at this time. It is unlikely that any further information on John Laye's military career will be available.

Both Solomon and Elizabeth left wills, proved in the York Exchequer Court. Apart from each other, neither mentioned any other family. Nor is any occupation or profession for Solomon included.

It was under the terms of Solomon's will that the Buttercross was built in Pontefract.

In April 2021, the *Pontefract & Castleford Express* reported vandalism of the Buttercross, adding:

"The Buttercross was erected in the 18th century as a result of a dying wish of Pontefract man, Solomon Dupeer, who was instrumental in the British fleet taking the rock of Gibraltar during the Spanish succession.

Dupeer waited until the Spanish were at prayer, then he signalled to the British fleet that it was safe to take the rock, as the Spanish were off guard.

When he settled in Pontefract, his wife and three daughters contracted smallpox, so Solomon went to the town's St Oswald's Cross to pray, and he swore that if they survived, he'd build a shelter for dairymaids to help prevent them from catching smallpox.

Solomon Dupeer passed away before he saw the vision come to fruition, but his wife and three daughters recovered from smallpox.

In her will, Elizabeth left a bequest 'to Dr Wilsford of Pontefract two guineas for his advice.'

The Stanley Briggs website http://www.stanleybriggs.com/pontefract_buttercross.html offers some further detail to the Dupeer narrative [all sic]:

"No ordinary resident of the town, Solomon Dupier died on 20th August 1732 but thirty years before his death he had been one of the garrison of Gibraltar when it was held by pro-Bourbon forces for King Philip V in the war of the Spanish Succession. On 3rd August 1704 an Anglo-Dutch force commanded by Admiral George Rooke attacked Gibraltar, the garrison surrendering the following day. It is said that Solomon Dupier was instrumental in bringing about the fall of the rock and that he received a valuable pension for his services. In a recent communication dated 30th May 1968 it is stated that "it would appear Dupier was to give a signal when the Spanish garrison were engaged in their religious duties in connection with one of the more important festivals in the Catholic Church calendar. He did so, and, as a result, the English Forces landed and captured the Rock with few, if any casualties".

It was also stated that it was "not considered politic that Solomon Dupier should continue to reside in Gibraltar and it would appear that the English Government gave him a pension of £500 per year and permission to settle anywhere in England that he should choose."

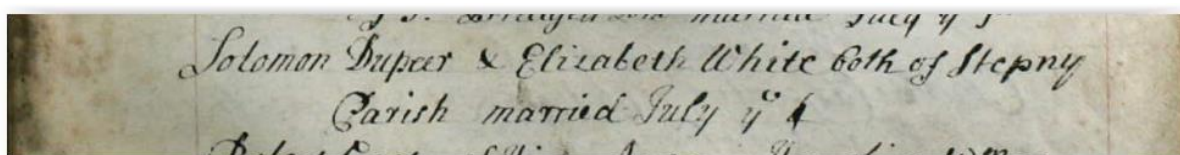
Along with Captain Lay, a member of Rooke's force, Dupier came to live in Pontefract, bringing with him his wife and three daughters, where he maintained the lifestyle of a gentleman. Whatever Dupier's involvement in 1704, whether it could be considered an act of treason may never be known and the reasons for him choosing to settle in Pontefract may likewise never come to light."

The probability that Solomon Dupeer was part of the Spanish garrison on Gibraltar in 1704 seems on the face of it to be unlikely. Was he possibly sent ashore before the attack to undertake covert reconnaissance? To date, no contemporary record has been discovered to confirm these or any other possibilities.

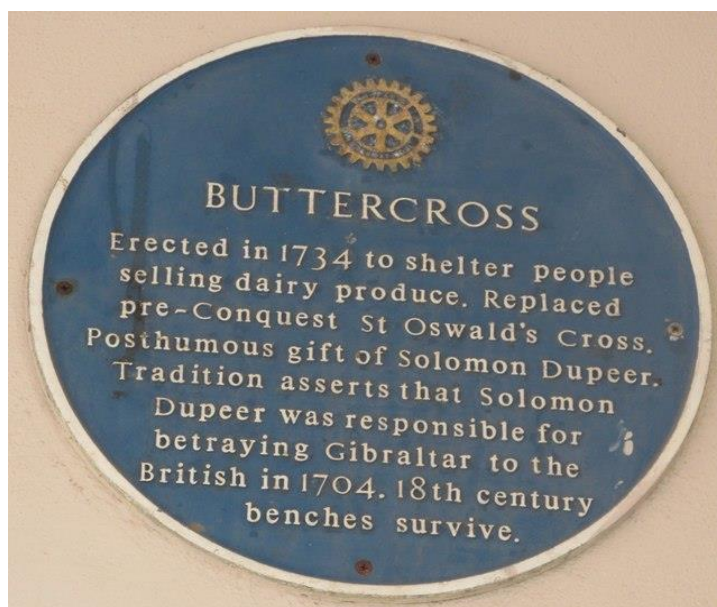
Whether or not Solomon Dupeer had any connection with the taking of Gibraltar in 1704, there is still a question as to who he was and what his origins were.

There is no age of death for Solomon on his memorial in Darrington church, but if Elizabeth was aged 78 when she died in January 1744/45, then she was born about 1667 and it is probable that Solomon was also born around this date. Was he British or, with the surname Dupeer, possibly Dutch? It is highly improbable he was Spanish.

A tempting possibility is Solomon Dupeer who married Elizabeth White (by Vicar General Licence) on 4 July 1701 at St Mary Magdalene Old Fish Street, London. Solomon was a weaver, and both were of Stepney. Other references to Solomon show his surnames as Duperre and Dupere which, combined with location and occupation, suggests a possible French (Huguenot) origin.



Was Solomon Dupeer the hero of Gibraltar? Is there some truth in the unsubstantiated stories told? Who can be sure?



The Buttercross plaque, Pontefract (openplaques.org)

Witham's Cemetery Nissen Hut

Stephen Barber

Introduction

In 2014 the Gibraltar Heritage Trust started moves to renovate the 18th century Witham's Cemetery. Standing beside the entrance is a Nissen hut, which sadly has seen better days. Its fate is soon to be decided. Should it be preserved for posterity or removed and destroyed?

The Nissen hut story

Nissen huts were first developed during the First World war by Major Peter Nissen of the Royal Engineers. They were intended for military usage, especially barracks, but also had multiple applications, including bomb stores and churches. Originally, they were semi-circular in cross-section with corrugated metal sheets attached to a metal frame. Windows and doors were added, creating a dormer window in the sides and a doorway at one end. There was no standard model. Design varied according to immediate need, but two factors remained important. It had to be economical with materials and had to be portable. Early examples could be packed into an army 3-ton truck and erected by six men in four hours. Thousands were built, but few remain, possibly because in Britain they were seen as cold and draughty, and in the Middle East and Asia they were hot and humid.

Gibraltar did have a significant number of them, both inside and outside The Rock. A few remain inside the tunnels, but no others seem to have survived outside.



It would appear that the only outdoor survivor is at the entrance to Witham's Cemetery. Its early history is lost in the mists of time. After World War 2 it was used as stabling for a horse that pulled a tank of kerosene for sale around Gibraltar. Perhaps that's a story for elsewhere...



With thanks to Gil Podesta for the use of his illustration

Conclusion

Nissen huts were cheap but never very cheerful, to misquote a common expression. They were probably low on peoples list of "Desirable Residences" owing to their shape making much space difficult to utilise and their general cheapness. That one has lasted outside in the humid, salty atmosphere of Gibraltar for what may be eight decades is extraordinary. It is not surprising that it is in need of some "tender loving care".

There is little doubt about it being a rarity, but does that alone make it worth salvaging for posterity? Its current location is off the beaten track, but that may be why it has survived and possibly it should stay where it is "out of sight and out of mind".

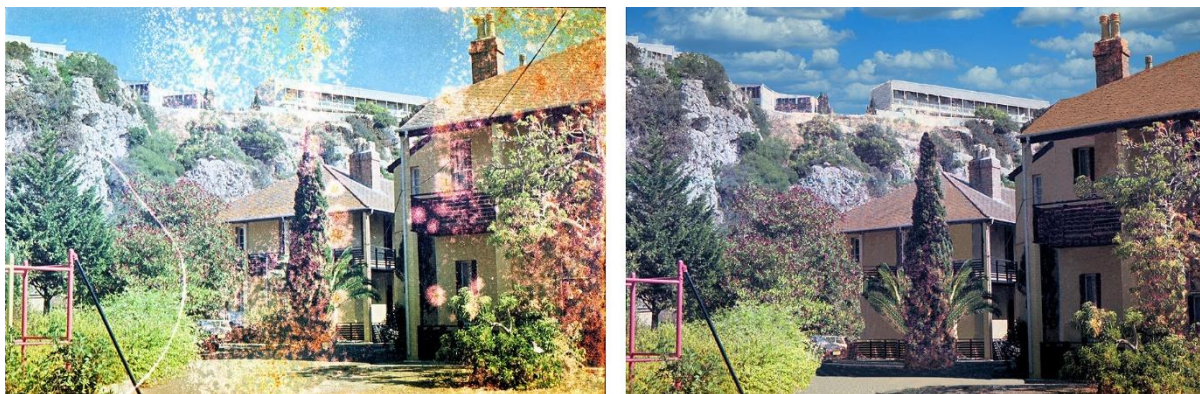
An alternative would be to move it to a more visible location where it could act as a reminder of those dark times of war to today's many tourists and visitors. If it were restored to act as a life-sized diorama of military accommodation, with a locked glazed door it would be educational. Perhaps positioned next to the railway truck on the pavement beside Ragged Staff Gate it would be seen - but not intrude where space is at a premium. What should happen to it, should it be destroyed or preserved?

(Grateful thanks to Wikipedia for some of the above information).



Gordon Robertson

Many people will recognise my Gibraltar photos from Facebook or Twitter, and although I have a vast library of my own photos, I also specialise in repairing and colouring old photos, negatives and vintage postcards. My Gibraltar photographic journey started in 1984. I worked for the MoD and took up a three-year posting as a young 25-year-old junior manager working in the PSTO(N) Explosives Workshops. My wife Hazel was a nurse in Godley Ward at the old St Bernard's Hospital. We were very lucky to be allocated a flat in Old Naval Hospital with a veranda overlooking the bay, perfect for capturing many a sunset and photographing the changing weather conditions.



I had already developed (pardon the pun) an interest in photography in my late teens and learned how to process & print black & white in a darkroom. I decided to progress to colour processing & printing, and as soon as we arrived in Gibraltar, I had the necessary equipment shipped out from the UK. I transformed one of our bedrooms into a darkroom using black bin bags & masking tape, and a colleague from the stores department gave me some surplus old desks.

Once the darkroom was functional, I found a wholesale supplier on Devil's Tower Road who stocked bulk film, chemicals and photographic paper. The film and paper originated from a factory in Hungary which was branded 'Forte' but the supplier told me he believed it was actually Kodak under a different name, but considerably cheaper. He was right, the factory in Hungary was built by Kodak in 1922 and later traded as the Forte Photochemical Industry. The quality of the film and paper was excellent, I would buy bulk 35mm film in 30 metre reels & load my own cassettes at a fraction of the cost of buying boxed film in retail outlets. My camera of choice back then was a Pentax and I was able to source lenses and filters at the 'Galaxy' shop on Main Street. I must have spent a bit of money there.....when the guys at Galaxy found out I was ending my tour, they gave me a free pair of binoculars! I still use Pentax digital cameras to this day, as all legacy lenses can be used on the latest cameras, including the ones purchased in Gibraltar all those years ago.

During my three years in Gibraltar, I must have taken thousands of pictures. However, not every shot I took was printed. I would develop a roll of film, print a contact sheet (so you could see a thumbnail of each shot on one sheet of paper), then pick the shots I wanted to print as enlargements. As a result, many photos now only exist as negatives, as they never made it to the print stage. But, with the benefit of modern technology, these negatives can now be scanned and converted to digital format. However, analogue film is not a lossless format, and negatives do degrade over a period of time. Furthermore, some of my negatives suffered water damage thanks to a leaky roof in one of our houses.

Fortunately, I have a methodology for repairing these old negatives and bringing them back to life. The process is in three stages; firstly, a physical clean of the negative which involves washing it in a bath of room-temperature water with a wetting agent. That's a delicate process, as the negative needs to be treated carefully to avoid further damage, however, surface stains and dust can be effectively removed at this stage. The second stage is scanning the negative, and I try and scan at very high resolution (that makes editing easier), I also have a facility on the scanner to remove dust and scratches so that can help eradicate anything which remains after the wash stage. The third stage is to import the digital scanned image into a photo editor, and again it is possible to remove any further blemishes which



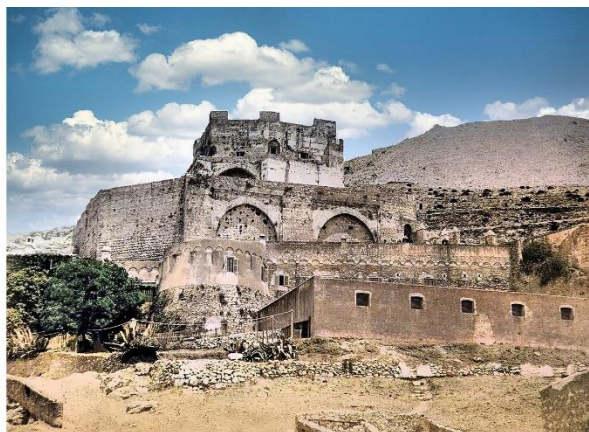
remain after the wash & scan phase. The editing phase can also help restore; colour, vibrancy, brightness, contrast etc.

If possible, it's always preferable to start from the source negative rather than the actual print. The reason for that is; by scanning the negative you are cutting out the middle man and going straight to the best copy which exists of the image. However, that's not always possible as you may only have a physical copy of the image on photographic paper, or you

may only have a digital image. In that case you have to rely on the scanning and/or editing phases to repair your image.

Fortunately, there's a good range of hardware and software available, some which can do everything in one package and now some also use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to do the heavy lifting for you. From my perspective, I like to use several different software programmes to get the results I want from repairing old/damaged images. For example, one to do basic editing (cloning, brightness, contrast etc), one to do colouring and one to do scene/sky replacement.

So where do I find old photos of Gibraltar? Probably my first purchase of an old Gibraltar photo was when we came back to the UK from Gibraltar in the late 1980s. We were in an antique shop and I spotted a box of vintage magic-lantern glass slides. Looking through the glass slides I could see many were from Andalucía and Morocco, so I bought them on the basis that we had visited many of the places depicted in the slides. When I got home & had a good look through the slides, I was amazed to discover there was one of Gibraltar, so I suppose that was the start of my collection of old images.



I still love going through antique shops to see if I can find vintage photos, but thanks to the power of the internet, I can find treasures via auction sites and museum collections from all over the world. Old postcards are a great source too, and it's surprising how well these can clean up.

I worked at Aberdeen University for several years and that gave me access to the George Washington Wilson photographic archive. Wilson was a native of Aberdeen and during the mid-1800s he pioneered the art of landscape photography. Prior to that, he worked as a portrait photographer and received a contract to photograph the Royal Family, working for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. Fortunately, Wilson's company also spent some time in Gibraltar and there are a good number of high-quality images in the digital archive. Some however suffered damage in storage and I've done work on a few of these to try and restore them to their former glory. It is extremely satisfying to be able to shine a new light on old Gibraltar.



The Changing Skyline of Gibraltar

Brian Gonzalez



Many parts of the 'old town' are being redeveloped by simply adding one or two extra storeys to already existing buildings - the picture shows Consulate House (blue building) which dates to the 1870s. Consulate House used to be the French Consulate on Prince Edward's Road. The building getting the extra two floors predates Consulate House, and has been totally gutted, awaiting refurbishment for 9 flats for renting.

Many readers may not recognize the location below - this is where the old Casino existed on Europa Road....now being converted to an expensive private development of villas, pools, and gardens.

The new Gibraltar Broadcasting Corporation (GBC) building along Rosia Road.



Parts of the old Naval Dockyard are also being redeveloped. Readers may notice The Tower at the top right-hand corner. The central part shows the new site of one of Gibraltar's main car dealerships, Bassadone Automotive World. They moved from their original site along Devil's Tower Road.



The new and the old.....can you tell which is which? Built on reclaimed land to the west - some of those buildings are still in the process of construction to meet the growing demand for property in Gibraltar. Readers might recognize the three buildings of Queensway Quay to the left...

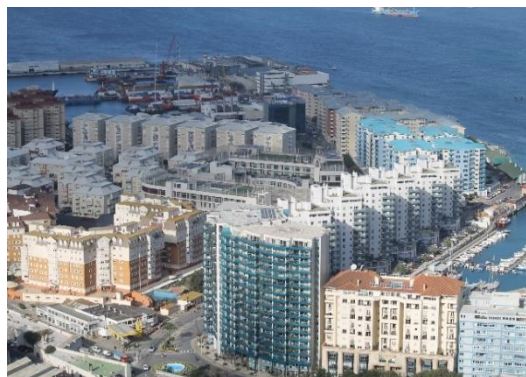
Grand Parade.....Cable Car being refurbished and replaced by new 'car'... parking continues to be a major constraint and has become a money spinner as Gibraltar is divided now into zones and people living in a particular zone need to pay for parking in that zone by purchasing an annual permit.....top right is the Queen's Hotel and another smaller parking area which used to be the site of the Queen's Cinema.....we wait with bated breath information of what will be built - originally planned to be Gibraltar's National Theatre....not any more, that will be 'built' on the John Mackintosh Hall site...



Devil's Tower Road.....on the way to Eastern Beach.....on a windy easterly (Levante) day, the winds are 'funnelled' between the high-rise buildings. Devil's Tower Road will also access the tunnel/underpass at the eastern end of Gibraltar's runway.....

Some more views of the old and the new residential areas.....spot the heritage!!!!





Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society - AGM

Saturday 16th October 2021, 14.00 hours

AGM Minutes 2021

Present – Board Members

Sir Adrian Johns (SAJ) Chair; Mr Albert Poggio (AP) Vice Chair; Mr John Borda Webmaster; Mr Peter Hucker (PH) Treasurer; Mrs Tricia Johnson (TJ) Secretary; Commodore Richard Lord (RL) Membership and Charitable Activities; Dr Vincent Mifsud (VM); Len Goss (LG) Marketing; in person. Prof. Charles Ramirez (CR); via Zoom.

Apologies: - Colonel Julian Lyne-Pirkis (JLP); Ms Jennifer Scherr (JS) Archivist.

30 members attended in person and 20 via Zoom.

1. **Welcome** SAJ welcomed all present, both in person and online.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising**
Agreed with no matters arising.

3. Reports from the Board

a) Treasurer's Report

PH noted this will be a short report, not least because activity has been fairly limited, due to the pandemic. The financial situation is therefore largely the same as this time last year. Net assets of about £40,000. Spending around £8-9000 per year across various activities. PH confirmed accounts to 31 March 2021 are complete, signed and will be presented to Companies House in coming days, along with Annual Report to Charities Commission.

b) Membership

RL noted the Society now has 476 members, nine new since April. Eight have left the Society and four have sadly died. They were Reginald Andlaw, Marie Cambell - Lamerton, Penelope Mayhew and Dr Ted Archer, the index to whose last book was paid for by the Society. RL noted the increasing number of over 80s, a valuable part of the Society as a look into the past. RL noted the Society has only four under 25s and this is a growth area which is seen as very important, and Erika Balban will later be talking more on this point. RL reminded that membership is free for under 25s and reminded people to alert relevant family members to this.

RL noted a number of recent requests by members to be put in touch with fellow members. RL also confirmed he could provide a 'names only' list of members if people would find this helpful.

c) Charitable Activities – Projects

Regarding Charitable Activities, RL noted the change in name from 'Projects'. RL confirmed there is a five-year plan which has been produced by PH and imposes the discipline of what we are going to do, when we are going to do it and how we are going to pay for it. The plan also includes candidates for inclusion. RL confirmed the plan for this year has a spend of £9800 and that there has been an excellent series on GBC from the GHT on the projects they are supporting and some of the ones we're supporting too. RL noted the commendably high proportion of subscriptions which is spent on charitable activities. Last year, out of over £9000, £2800 was spent on the magazine and newsletters; £245 on sundry expenses. This year the aim is to spend £9700 on charitable activities so the overhead compared with the spend is minute and PH and the team must be thanked for their volunteer labour.

The University annual bursary award of £1000 is proceeding as normal. The schools' annual history shields and awards have been raised from £250 to £300. Witham's Cemetery continues to be the flagship and RL noted the huge difference the FOGHS support has made to this project. Regarding the Central Hall window, RL confirmed FOGHS are supporting 50% with the GHT. The Special Operations Executive Cave is being supported with funding from the FOGHS for a 3D visualisation. The chances of the public being able to go in are small, so, in order to capture that part of history, the best way is video. RL also confirmed the Schools' Christmas Card competition, with the plan being to send out cards to all members. Last year focused on the over 80s and was a great success so this year the plan is to send them out to all. RL noted a date for diaries, 19th April 2022 when there will be a Falkland Islands plaque unveiled by the Governor, with CM in attendance, for the work that the dockyard did in the preparation of SS Uganda for the Falklands War. There may perhaps be a reception in the Gibraltar Squadron offices. Lastly, RL noted one other idea currently being looked at for veterans as a joint venture with Alabaré.

RL welcomed ideas from members for future charitable activities.

One member asked a question about the refurbishment of a soldier statue by Trafalgar Cemetery, which is very old and dirty. RL confirmed this is the responsibility of the Gibraltar Tourist Board.

d) Marketing and Engagement (Communications)

LG gave an overview of his connection to Gibraltar and how he came to join the Board in April 2021. LG confirmed the plan for membership growth is ambitious. The goal is to double membership over five years. LG acknowledged the limitations with resource but, highlighted the benefits that can be brought from engagement online and guiding through the process of engagement to convert them from a stranger to a full - blown member. The plan will be in stages, so that from April 2022 the Society is well placed to attract people to join them, automatically on-line. For example, RL currently administers and manages the membership application process which incurs more than an hour's work per application. To automate this process via the website would be hugely time efficient. LG encouraged current members to go to the Facebook page and see what and how it works.

4. Questions from members (Submitted by attendees in advance)

No questions asked.

5. AOB – (Submitted by attendees in advance)

One member asked to look ahead four years to 2025, which will be the 80th Anniversary of VE Day. He noted Gibraltar's huge part in the Second World War and role as a military base. The member raised the possibility of an event in Gibraltar that the Society might suggest, support or promote as appropriate. It was noted that Gibraltar has the biggest guns in the World. The member suggested the firing of the 100 ton gun on VE Day. O'Hara's Battery is capable of hitting a 3m square piece of wood in the Bay of Gibraltar, but this may be too ambitious an idea. SAJ confirmed this is something that can be discussed with the GHT.

6. Provisional date and time for the next meeting – Oct/Nov 2022

AJ noted Christmas Party in London on 1st December.

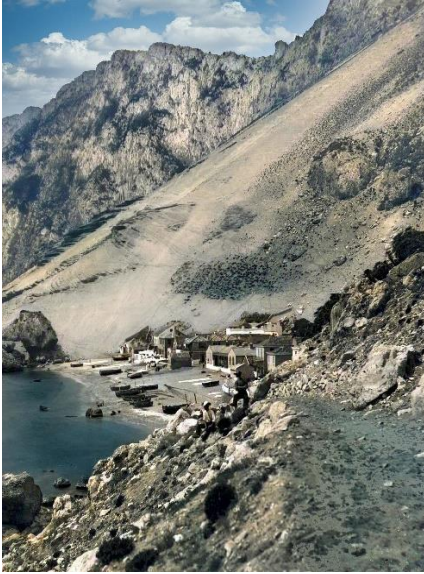
The next Board Meeting will be on 17th January and the aim is for a live talk in Gibraltar House on that evening. Further Board Meetings are scheduled for April and July when it is hoped to include a speaker for each event.

SAJ closed the AGM and expressed thanks to everyone attending and to the Board for their continuing support and hard work.

FOGHS SUMMARY ACCCOUNTS 2021

Balances at bank	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
	£	£
Scottish Widows Deposit	26,224	26,158
Lloyds General Current Accounts	10,618	14,122
Cash in hand and stock of ties	1,672	2,056
	38,514	42,336
Current Liabilities	1,000	1,000
Net Assets	37,514	41,336
 Operation of the Society		
Net Income including Subscriptions, Donations and Gift aid	9,061	8,046
Net Expenditure (before Charitable activities) including RockTalk and Sundry expenses	3,093	2,921
 Charitable activities		
University Bursary	1,000	1,000
Schools Awards (none in 2021 due to COVID 19)	-	564
Witham's Cemetery	5,000	-
Trafalgar Cemetery	2,800	-
Garrison Library Fireplace	720	-
Other charitable donations	270	410
	9,790	1,974
 Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	 (3,822)	 3,151

PH



Front and back covers:

As we await future developments on the site of the Caleta Palace Hotel, we are very grateful to Gordon Robertson for supplying copies of his restored photographs of Catalan Bay.

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Chairman: Sir Adrian Johns KCB CBE

Secretary: Tricia Johnson

Membership Secretary: Commodore Richard Lord CBE

Treasurer: Peter Hucker

Marketing and Engagement: Len Goss

Editor of Rock Talk: Jennifer Scherr

**IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY A MEMBER AND WISH TO JOIN US
PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE**
<https://friendsofgibraltar.org.uk/membership/>

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