



# ROCK TALK

JOURNAL OF THE FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR  
2021 EDITION

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## Editorial

This year has been unprecedented for all of us, in Gibraltar, the UK and beyond. A new issue of *Rock Talk* brings you the Society's very best wishes as we look forward to a better 2021. Your Society too has had challenges to face, as it resets its mission for the future, whilst working under Covid-19 restrictions. Amongst several encouraging results of months of lockdown have been new volunteers to help with particular activities, and an increase in offerings to *Rock Talk* and the newsletters.

Our normal schedule of events - London talks, the June visit to Gibraltar, the Christmas party - went by the board. Instead, the October AGM and Seminar was offered successfully to members online, and recordings of the speakers were later made available on our website. Increased effort has been made to stay in contact with members, particularly using the quarterly newsletter, and through the updated website, which is under continuing development as this issue goes to press.

Yet another change is signalled by the retirement of Dr Vincent Mifsud and Brian and Elizabeth Gonzalez as editors of *Rock Talk* after eight years of nurturing the Society's magazine. I would like to record the Society's thanks to them all, particularly to Vincent as editor-in-chief, as well as my own gratitude for his advice as I take over the reins.

I hope you will enjoy reading the wide variety of contributions on offer - personal memories and photographs as well as official reports, historical pieces, and a book review. I look forward to hearing from many of you, new or repeat authors, as I begin to plan for the next issue!

*Jennifer Scherr* (February 2021)

## Deceased

The Society has been informed during 2020 of the death of the following Friends, which we note with regret:

Mr Roy Harris  
Lady Rhoda McQuarrie  
Dr Gordon Vernon  
Mr Edward R Winton

We would also like to take the opportunity to record with regret the death of

Mrs Brenda Brufal

who, together with her late husband Michael, did so much to support the Friends in earlier years, particularly when organising many of our enjoyable visits to Gibraltar.

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

## Chairman's Letter

*Sir Adrian Johns*

When I wrote last year's foreword, Brexit was the big issue. Little did we realise what was coming down the track and how the Covid-19 pandemic would affect us all. The impact has been profound and will be far-reaching in so many aspects of our lives. The FOGHS Board, like all other organisations, had to adapt very quickly to new ways of working and I am pleased to report that we achieved some notable successes over the course of 2020.

The Board last met in person almost a year ago but, since then, we have forged ahead with 9 Zoom meetings including our AGM/Seminar last October. By all accounts, the latter was a significant success and the whole virtual meeting concept has led us to consider the potential of connecting more people in this way. We all hope that we will be able to meet in person again before too long. There is no substitute for face-to-face human interaction, but I am clear that, however 2021 unfolds, on-line interaction will also play a significant part in the way we communicate.

Connecting ourselves as a society of like-minded people is at the heart of our refreshed strategy which we worked up over the course of last year and which we presented at the Seminar. We want to give effect to our vision and mission through nurturing and increasing our membership (especially in relation to younger people); continuing our support for the work of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust; and providing new impetus to informing and educating people in the UK about Gibraltar. We look forward to making more progress in 2021, including consolidating our working link with Gibraltar House in London, with whom we have recently agreed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalise our relationship.

I hope you have enjoyed our newsletters over the course of last year and, once again, I would like to thank Hayley Garner for turning out such interesting and imaginative productions. Thanks also go to all those who contributed to the newsletters and to this edition of Rock Talk. These are important vehicles for keeping us connected and for spreading the word beyond our Society. A year ago, we were wondering who might succeed Vincent as Editor of Rock Talk. I am delighted to say that Jennifer Scherr stepped up to the plate and you can see for yourself that she has produced another excellent publication.

Finally, I make no apologies for recording on behalf of all the Friends our appreciation for the time, effort and commitment of our Board members, without whom this Society would not function. I am very pleased to say that we have seen several other Friends volunteering to help with sub-committee work, particularly on membership and projects. We need more of this so please don't hide your light under a bushel. Step up and help us take the Society forward.

Let's all hope for a safe and healthy 2021 and continuing success for the Friends!



## The Friends go on a Virtual Learning Experience (or “how to work around a rather nasty pandemic”)

Peter Hucker

The Friends’ Annual General Meeting and Seminar took place on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 entirely using Zoom video conferencing.

Our Chairman opened the event with some detail about the Society’s new Vision and Mission, developing some of the thinking that has been published in our newsletters and which is now guiding the work of the Board and some other welcome volunteers. We hope the fruits of that work will become more evident as we bed in the new agenda. Along with the other main presentations a full recording of Sir Adrian’s talk is available on the Friends’ website ([www.friendsofgibraltar.org.uk](http://www.friendsofgibraltar.org.uk)).

The other main presentations were kicked off by Ian Balestrino and Claire Montado of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust, our major partner in Gibraltar, who gave what is now a regular update on Trust business. Dr Jennifer Ballantine Perera then added a fascinating piece about the Garrison Library which was followed by an equally inspiring description of the development of the University by Dr Darren Fa, which included a review of the Friends’ annual Bursary and its recent winners. If you weren’t able to tune in on the day, the recordings are well worth watching. The GHT and Garrison Library reports are also published below in this issue in a revised format.

Having used the Oxfordshire Golf Hotel for our AGM and Seminar since we moved from our previous venue in Winchester a couple of years ago, we were all looking forward to getting together again for our traditional annual

weekend away. The Board had agreed to set up the usual programme which included our annual review meeting with the GHT, as well as the Annual General Meeting and, of course, our Seminar.



The great thing about the Oxfordshire event is that it gives us the chance to meet with friends both formally and informally, and to enjoy a bit of social gathering over lunch and dinner. The opportunity to stay overnight in this 4-star hotel means the dinner is a relaxed affair which always attracts a strong following.

Needless to say, this year’s plans did not work out quite as we intended. Nobody

expected Covid-19 to have any regard for Gibraltar’s heritage but, as we came out of the first lockdown we were hopeful that we could go ahead as we had originally planned. Contract negotiations were fairly straightforward, although Tricia Johnson did a great job in making sure the confusion of 2019, where billing became a bit of a circus, was not to be repeated. The hotel staff reacted positively to our proposals for a contingency arrangement and we were all set to meet again in October.

As the year went on, it became increasingly obvious that “Plan B” would need to be dusted off and refined. We looked at using the hotel, with a limit of 30 people gathering at once, to provide a smaller but still live seminar. We thought it best if our speakers and friends from Gibraltar were to attend by video link but held out some hope that the dinner could go ahead.

It was not to be: by mid-September it was clear the most we could do would be to assemble six people at the hotel. We introduced “Plan C” which involved the members of the Board sitting as a host panel at the Oxfordshire while everyone else joined in on-line. The hotel staff were great again, helping to sort out the technical requirements and reducing the cost of hiring the conference room!

It wasn’t until 15<sup>th</sup> October that we realised that new Government restrictions would mean that even that limited gathering would not be possible: so we went for the “whole Zoom” alternative.

Anyone who has tried to run a Zoom Webinar will know that it is quite easy to set up and the host is able to control presentations and attendance without too much difficulty. Nevertheless, the learning curve was steep and we have to be extremely grateful to our contributors for their forbearance as we wrestled with the admin.

The outcome, according to the feedback we received through our post-event questionnaire, was a success.



It specifically showed how we can develop our interface with our members and wider audiences for the future and make better use of the internet to engage with a membership that covers the whole of the UK (and a few other places further afield).

Perhaps the most surprising thing about all this was that the plan for the Seminar agenda was not affected at all by the change of medium. While the social aspects of the event were effectively cancelled, except for those who may have chosen to join us, virtually, in a bubble, the Seminar itself went ahead much as originally envisaged.

We are left with the challenge of making our virtual events more inclusive and interactive. We relish that and look forward to discussing our ideas with you all; hopefully in person but maybe over the ether, in the not too distant future...

## MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY JOTTINGS

*Richard Lord*

I trust that you were able to have some family celebrations on Christmas Day. We all hope that as we move towards Spring there will be an uplift in our fortunes. We send this message of hope to all members including those overseas and in Gibraltar.

Since last year our numbers have slightly reduced to 477 and we are always on the lookout for new members. We have somewhat delayed a major recruiting time now as it does not seem appropriate.

We had two joint winners in our Christmas Quiz competition: Paul Blake and Emlyn Stephenson, who kindly waived his prize. We offer our congratulations.

As we look forward to the Spring, we offer the following:



- Membership for £15 until Apr 22 as a gift for a relative or friend. I will write them a welcoming e mail saying that it is from you. I will make sure they get a copy of this year's Rock Talk.
- Free Package and Postage for a Friends' Tie for yourself or a relative/friend if ordered by end Mar 21. Only £20.

Whilst, we like many others, have had to scale back out events, I would like to remind to remind you of benefits and offers:

- At the appropriate time, to restart a wide-ranging set of events (Ideas always welcome). The AGM is firmly in the diary for 16 Oct 21.
- Free membership for those over 80. (Please be sure to let me know – some of you have not so far!). Having informed me please [cancel](#) your Standing Order. I cannot do this.
- Free membership to all those aged under 25. First subscription would be on the 6 Apr following 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- 5 for the price of 4 Family Membership (4x£15). To be paid by Standing Order.
- For those with an appropriate award, a supported application for Membership of the Gibraltar OBE Association.
- A special discount from the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. They have generously allowed a 30% discount off all their Membership Fees for Members of the Friends. Should you wish to take advantage of this offer, which will be available through an on-line purchase, by cheque or in person at the Trust, then please contact me for a discount code to use. We are now offering a similarly reduced membership subscription for new members who are already members of the GHT.
- and, of course, interesting Newsletters and your Magazine – Rock Talk! Enjoy this copy.

### Timeliness of Subscription

Chasing late payment from those who do not pay by Standing Order consumes time which could be better spent, for example, on recruiting. May I remind you please that Membership Subscriptions are due in April each year and those who do not pay by a regular Standing Order will be asked to pay £17.50. HOWEVER, if payment is made by end May 21 then a discount of £2.50 will be applied. The payment can be posted to me or by electronic transfer.

### Updated Information

Please don't forget to contact me if your Gift Aid situation has changed and you no longer qualify or have moved. The next claim will be in May 21 for the period Apr 20 to Mar 21. Last year our claim raised a most useful £1,190.17.

Also, could I ask if you would let me know if you hear of Members who have not heard from us recently. Members change their e-mail and home addresses and we are not always informed. Sometimes e-mails and letters are returned to us but not in all cases.

### Contacts

I will forward e mails to those you may have lost contact with, and we are always keen to help members who want to contact authorities related to studies/research they are undertaking.

### Feedback

We are always grateful for feedback on any issue affecting our Society. We would be interested in knowing what you think of the Newsletters. If you send any comments to me as your Membership Secretary, then I can assure you that your Board will consider it. This is your Society.

### Contact Details:

Commodore Richard Lord CBE RN (Rtd) Church Cottage, 4 Kingsbury Square WILTON SP2 0BA  
[richard.lord2@btinternet.com](mailto:richard.lord2@btinternet.com) 01722 743173 (Please leave a message if there is no reply)

## REPORT ON CHARITABLE EXPENDITURE

*Richard Lord, Acting Projects Director*

The expenditure on charitable activities on projects fell from £12,400 in 2018/19 to £1,974 in 2019/20. In considering projects for 2020/21 a catch up situation was considered to exist and so an expenditure of £12,770 was planned.

The capability to increase expenditure is facilitated by the Memorandum of Understanding with the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. This indicates that funds can be transferred to them directly and for the GHT then to ensure value for money.



This year a larger than affordable list of projects was compiled to allow a priority order to be established. This was done in conjunction with the GHT. The projects that were taken forward are as follows. The first two are transfers to the GHT and the contributions have now been paid.

**Withams Cemetery (£5,000)** This is a flagship project illustrating how targeting funds to pay for a skilled stonemason combined with a volunteer force led by Keith Farrell, from the GHT, continues to make outstanding progress.

Those who visited the neglected cemetery in the June visit 6 years ago are astounded by the changes there. The work undertaken by a local contractor should also be recognised. It is planned to open the Cemetery for public access when work, which has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic, is complete.

**Trafalgar Cemetery (£2,800)** This will contribute towards the rectification of storm damage by replacing the destroyed arbour and the cemetery plan boards.

**Stained Glass Window for Central Hall (£2,500)** This is matched funding with the GHT to provide a replacement for the plain glass windows. A competition for design is complete and the next stage is underway. A major refurbishment of Central Hall is in progress.

**Garrison Library (£970)** Indexing of a book by Dr Ted Archer (£250) has been paid (see elsewhere in this issue for a review of *In Defence of the Rock*). Membership flyers have been inserted in the book as a trial to see whether this type of initiative might attract new members. The restoration of a fireplace (£720) is underway. There has been some delay due to coronavirus.

**Annual University and Schools Awards (£1,500)** These popular awards are carried forward for another year. (£1000 and 2x£250). It seems likely that the schools award may not be taken up this year. *[could insert crag martins photo and refer to last year's university award here]*

**Candidate items for 2021/22** These include the repair of the Convent Murals, 3D filming of the SOE Communications site, plaque to commemorate the Gibraltar dockyard contribution to the re-rolling of ships in the Falklands War, additional awards for schools and projects in the UK. The Board encourages members to submit items for consideration.

**Projects Lead** It is planned that Len Goss will have the lead on projects from April 2021. He has started to research additional candidate projects for the next financial year.

## Working with heritage: a report on the activities of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust. A talk delivered to the Friends of Gibraltar Annual Seminar, October 2020

Claire Montado, CEO

Heritage management is often fraught with hurdles, issues and challenges, it is the nature of the beast. These tensions can be all the more amplified when it comes to small territories as they aim to find a comfortable balance between stakeholder requirements, development needs and community progression.

The Gibraltar Heritage Trust works throughout the year to deliver on its statutory duties to protect, conserve and promote Gibraltar's varied and asset rich heritage and does so largely within an operational model known as 'The Heritage Cycle'. This is a process of thinking about heritage and informing a structure for its management was first presented by English Heritage as part of their 2005-2010 strategy and it continues to be as relevant today. Our work focuses mainly on cultivating and strengthening this cycle with the end aim of gains towards heritage preservation.

The work of the Trust in promoting the UNDERSTANDING of our historic environment and the need to protect it is delivered in a number of ways both on the macro and the micro level.

Through our statutory role on the DPC we feed into the consultation and design process on all major developments in Gibraltar. This year, before the COVID-19 Pandemic shut down the main DPC meetings for almost 4 months, there had been 10 meetings of the DPC with over 300 applications tabled, 11 of which were classed as *major developments*. With the enactment of the new Heritage Act (2018), it is now compulsory for DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS and ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEFS and for them to be DEVELOPER FUNDED. These are essential tools in helping all stakeholders involved in the decision-making process to ensure that they are reaching conclusions on the development of a site in the FULL KNOWLEDGE of the facts and understanding of its historical context. The outcome of these documents and research processes mean that a CHMP (CULTURAL MANAGEMENT PLAN) is produced as part of the planning conditions and that archaeological monitoring is put in place.

In most cases, the production of these documents in good time within the design and conceptual development timeline means that the architects better UNDERSTAND the significance of the site and can incorporate any salient features into their scheme.



An example of such a process is that of what is now being marketed as 'The Reserve' on Europa Road, the site of the Old Casino. Although a controversial development due to its massing and the need for measures to mitigate its impact on the Nature Reserve Buffer Zone, from a heritage point of view the process of understanding the history and significance of the site led to valuing of the asset that it sat upon. That asset is large water tanks built in the mid 1800s that were and are still in use today supplying brackish water to the southern end of Gibraltar and the Upper Rock.

The final scheme as consented to retains the tanks in situ, and critically in use, with infrastructure designed in such a way that comfortable access to the space is possible should they be repurposed in the future. The outer blast wall of the tank (which was added at a later date) would be the only item to be lost in order to achieve the overflying of the tanks and an access pavement which will also afford up-lighting of the tank walls and some interpretation. In conversation the developer and team admitted that whilst from the outset they did not understand the fuss over a set of old tanks, they now understood its importance to the story of Gibraltar and were proud to be doing their bit towards preserving a part of that story.

Another example of UNDERSTANDING that has led to VALUE is illustrated on the macro level in large ongoing projects such as the Northern Defences which I have reported on in past years. Work here continues steadily all



year round. On the micro level the rescuing and restoration of an antique sideboard from a derelict property up for redevelopment on Main Street also manifests this notion of UNDERSTANDING leading to VALUE. Research into the dresser identified it as belonging to the Larios family who were onetime owners of the City Hall. The Trust facilitated its donation to Gibraltar, and then through the Ministry for Heritage pressed for its restoration and finally its relocation at the City Hall where it can be enjoyed by all who visit and perhaps spark enquiries into other elements of Gibraltar's history. What would otherwise have been consigned to the rubbish tip is now VALUED due to its place in history being understood.

Working to encourage and motivate stakeholders to CARE is in our view critically important to the preservation of heritage. Two significant and current projects worth highlighting in this aspect are those of the redevelopment and restoration of (what was) the Central Police Station on Irish Town which is currently underway, and secondly the redevelopment of the North Gorge, a brownfield site in the South District.

On the Central Police Station, with extension floors now complete, works are advancing quickly on the interior of the building ready for its new use as offices, although important to note that the ground floor will remain publicly accessible with conversion to a restaurant/cafeteria. From our interactions with the team of owner/clients, contractors, architects and project managers, it is apparent that they really CARE about getting it right for the building. The external stone and brickwork is very weathered and it has taken time to ensure that the right team and knowledge has been procured to ensure the façade gets restored correctly. This is now underway although slightly delayed due to Covid lockdown regulations.

The second site, North Gorge, is still at the very beginning of its project journey only just having received planning permission for the construction of 45 low rise town houses within the site. Liaison with the developers had been ongoing for a couple of years as various issues, not just heritage focused ones, have been identified and designed to mitigate for.

Aside from the Gorge itself, the main heritage assets of the site are underground with 'Judges Cave' a site of Neolithic activity and also the Rosia Cold Stores, a 3 level underground complex of refrigerated chambers covering some 4000m<sup>2</sup> that was built into an 18<sup>th</sup> Century gunpowder magazine. There are also a couple of Victorian brick ventilating chimneys on the site. Again, the UNDERSTANDING and VALUING of the site has led to CARE being taken in the scheme to protect and ensure that these assets are available to future generations. And the final element of the cycle is that of ENJOYING our historical environment. Our member tours and outings have continued right up until lockdown and continue to be a core element of what we deliver at the Trust. When one enjoys something, there is a natural thirst to develop and explore that enjoyment further which can take all sorts of outcomes. An example being our Heritage Journal, which celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition last year. The publication was launched by HW the Mayor at the City Hall where tribute was paid to the journal founders. Furthermore, the founding editor (Tito Benady) and the present editor (Richard Garcia) presented an enjoyable talk on the Journal at the Gibraltar Literary festival which added to the



Journal's already firm standing within the Gibraltar research community whilst also presenting its journey to a wider audience at the festival.

As well as other events and new experiences such as our painting competition which focused on 'A View from My Window' during lockdown; and the introduction of the 'William Serfaty Shield' together with Rotary International Gibraltar as task-based heritage writing competition in commemoration of this lifetime member of the Trust, all aimed at engaging with new audiences and encouraging them to ENJOY the heritage that surrounds them.

These, and the usual other vehicles for the promotion our heritage such as our annual Calendar, various book signings and launches, talks, quizzes and interaction on our social media feeds all feed into completing our annual cycle and brings us back to the top of the Heritage Cycle once again.

None of the examples given above can be 'boxed' into a single step of the Heritage Cycle and it's important not to do so either, as each step is reliant on the previous in building this continuous process in order to make heritage as relevant to our today and tomorrow as it was to our yesterday.

*[Editor's note:*

*Recordings of the AGM GHT presentations by Claire Montado (CEO) and Ian Balestrino (retiring Chairman) are available on our website under Events: 2020 Annual Seminar]*



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Finlayson in *Gibraltar Heritage Journal* 3 1996 (pp7-14).

## GIBRALTAR'S FIRST CITY COUNCILLORS 1921

Magda Risso has sent us this important photograph, probably taken when the City Council first met, on 6 December 1921. Her grandfather, *Charles T Pou*, is standing front right, marked by a cross. He was backed by the Workers' Union, and elected to represent the Old Town Ward, beating George Gaggero (Independent), 498 to 274.

The story of Gibraltar's first election was recorded by T J

See also *GHJ/J FOGHS* 1 1993 (2001 reprint) p33 'The City Council'.

## GIBRALTAR HOUSE NEWS

*Dominique Searle*

We start 2021 continuing one of the most complex years in recent history, not just for Gibraltar, the whole world. For Gibraltar House it has been challenging to sustain our core role in the normal way – engaging and lobbying, supporting Gibraltar events and entities. Whilst the pandemic pushed most engagement into the virtual world, traditional activity often ceased. The fox trot of pandemic rules bounced meetings and appointments - I have one important lunch invitation that is on its fifth incarnation!

When possible, the office was physically opened to the extent that the UK government's rules and guidance allowed. Our core events such as National Day, Gibraltar Day, the plethora of party conferences, were soon reduced to almost nought. Happily, I was able to organise an exceptional National Day celebration for our All Party Parliamentary Group executive members and spouses on September 10 in Covent Garden having found



that one of the few places left serving food - outdoors and under cover - accommodated us in a gap when rules allowed some jollity. We even managed to organise a surprise rendition of our Gibraltar national anthem by one of the busker opera singers who recites there, delivered with their own arrangement played by the string quartet. Excellent!

Curiously, some things almost work better with Zoom. Attendance at all our APPG Gib meetings, many addressed by Chief

Minister Fabian Picardo from Gibraltar was even better than usual. Mainly due to a captive audience on a Friday morning in their homes. Equally, we were able to have the CM and his team on various live parliamentary committee sessions which were also seen on GBC. And there was much to talk about.

Overall support from the UK government on Covid-19 has been very good, not just for Gibraltar, but indeed the Overseas Territories. But whilst the Chief Minister and his various departments were assiduously navigating the

pandemic – creating Nightingale hospitals, special wards, supporting the economy, supporting workers (including cross-border workers), there was also the increasingly complex challenge of Brexit. This has its particular impact on Gibraltar and its symbiotic relationship with the neighbouring region of the Campo de Gibraltar and La Linea de la Concepción in particular.

It's worth rehearsing the basic stats here. The Campo is 300,000 people, ten times the Rock's population, and in normal times, just under 15,000 EU nationals, over half of them Spanish, cross into Gibraltar to work each day. Yet we spend half a billion pounds sterling each year into Spain and, regionally, account for some 24% of the Campo's GDP. For example, over 25% of GHA staff - surgeons, nurses, cleaners are Spanish. Spaniards work in every sector at every pay level.

This is a critical factor in the discussions that have been taking place since the day after the referendum where the core team has been the Chief Minister, Dr Joseph Garcia, the deputy CM, Michael Llamas, the Attorney General and Albert Mena the Financial Secretary. It was helpful that the preparations Gibraltar made for the then likely hard Brexit, came in hugely useful in being prepared for the unexpected arrival of Covid-19. It should be recognised as well that Spain - by now engaged in complex talks with Gibraltar and UK and also the EU - was supportive of the region and Gibraltar when it came to response to the pandemic.

Back in 2003, when the Aurora cruise liner steamed into port with a swathe of its passengers cabin-bound with 'the runs', Spain closed the border for 24 hours. Instead, throughout the pandemic the border has been, at times with special controls on either side, constantly open to allow the flow of essential workers, goods and residents both ways. The fact that Gibraltar furloughed all affected workers including cross-border employees has contributed to the good will on both sides and a desire to take the region into prosperity focusing on people rather than political gains.

With all necessary sovereignty-sensitive antennae fully activated, Gibraltar engaged in an ambitious dialogue which culminated on New Year's eve with a declaration pronounced by UK, Spain and Gibraltar of a framework for talks to find agreement on a way of allowing fluidity at what otherwise will be an external border of the EU where Brussels would require burdensome controls in addition to anything Spain, for other motives, might seek to impose. Until June 2021 the status quo on access through the border generally holds.

The Sanchez government, through its Foreign Minister Arancha Gonzalez Laya, has sought to progress on the approach of previous PSOE governments. The strategy is to park the sovereignty dispute in an effort to reinforce the human and economic relationship of the Campo region, including Gibraltar, as a whole. The details of the framework etc are public and well reported but it should be emphasised that the New Year's statement is a starting pistol for complex talks and a general statement of intent, not an end in itself. And remember, if we achieve this agreement it will be an agreement between the UK and the EU. Additionally, it will have a four-year life after which each party can walk away if they are not able to agree a satisfactory renewal.

Friends of Gibraltar should be reassured that the Gibraltar team is Rock solid on our British sovereignty remaining intact. Indeed, one of the great positives of Brexit (96% of Gibraltar is well-versed in the negatives!) is the close and trusting working relationship we have been able to evolve with No 10 and the Foreign Office. Talks of course are very real and sometimes difficult, but it is fair to say that we were engaged with properly, collegiately and not talked down to at any time.

Nor should anyone lose track of the first, critical, part of the process which was to cement the continuity of our relationship with the UK once out of the EU. This led to UK essentially agreeing to preserve and where possible enhance our access to the UK market especially in financial services, the treatment of our students as home students' and health and other areas critical to our functioning. It is from that solid platform that Gibraltar and the UK have engaged in talks with the EU and Spain as a member of the EU with which we have a significant relationship. Watch this space!

In the meantime it is clear that having achieved, with UK support, borrowing at sovereign rates, Gibraltar, like the rest of the world, will have to shoulder the cost of Covid-19 for some years to come.

When the curtains of Covid-19 and Brexit are raised - and this will feel fast and strange - new paths and new challenges will face the Rock.

You can imagine that the Gibraltar House team is anxious to get back to real-time human engagement. However much we may retain some use of Zoom, Teams and Blue jeans etc nothing can replace the serendipity and gut scent of direct social access. The work we have done this past year, much like a great ship that pushes on even when its engines are cut, has ridden on the accumulation of previous work and goodwill generated. But new ties have been much tougher to create.

We look forward to welcoming our Friends of Gibraltar to 150 Strand as soon as we are allowed.

## **Moving On: A strategic plan towards maintaining the relevance and sustainability of the Gibraltar Garrison Library in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

*Dr Jennifer Ballantine Perera, Director of The Gibraltar Garrison Library and Director of The Institute for Gibraltar and Mediterranean Studies, University of Gibraltar.*

### **Introduction**

This is a revised version of the talk given to the Friends in October 2020. It discusses the challenges faced by a historic print library in this digital age, and the tensions between conservation of a heritage building and the demands of a modern reading and research community. We must not underestimate the importance of keeping an institution such as the Gibraltar Garrison Library relevant and vital, as sustainability is dependent on these factors.

### **Historical Backdrop**

The Garrison Library was established by Capt. Drinkwater (later Col.) in 1793, on the back of the Great Siege of Gibraltar (1779 – 1789). At that time, Drinkwater felt the need to support his men, especially during the quiet periods of inaction, which gave rise to dark thoughts, desertions and suicide. A library was seen as a vehicle to emotionally support these men. Interestingly, Drinkwater's plans for a public and, therefore, open access library did not come to fruition; instead, we see the birth of a private subscription library for the officers of the Gibraltar garrison, who would pay a monthly fee towards acquisitions and the management of these collections. Such was the success of this arrangement, that by 1799 the committee sought to raise funds from their membership to build a library large enough to accommodate books and recreational activities. At it happened, their vision was larger than their pockets, which led them to approach George III for financial support. A very generous award followed, which granted the then Library Committee the freehold of a significant parcel of freehold land together with sufficient funds to for the construction of the current Garrison Library building and gardens.

As the oldest library at Gibraltar, we have now come to understand the likelihood that our library may also be the first of Garrison Libraries to have been established by the British. Our research to date has shown that The Rules and Catalogue of the Halifax Garrison Library, established in Canada (1817) uses the Gibraltar Garrison Library rules as a template for their institution; importantly, they do so on the recommendation of the fifth Earl of Dalhousie, a colonel in the Scots Guards and brigadier-general in the British Army who was stationed at Gibraltar during the Peninsular War (1807-1814). From Gordon Fergusson's working files for his book on the Royal Calpe Hunt, *The Hounds are Home* (1979), we learn of Dalhousie's membership of the Hunt and of his time at Gibraltar, during which he would have been subscriber to the Garrison Library.

In September 2011 the Gibraltar Garrison Library entered into a new phase when transferred to the people of Gibraltar; as an open access library, we now come under the umbrella of the Ministry for Heritage.

### **Current Aims**

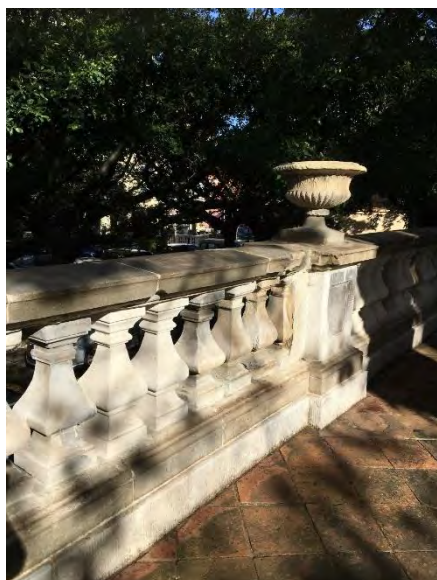
The Gibraltar Garrison Library holds significant heritage value; it holds a unique collection specific to its milieu; one which pulls together British military and naval history and Gibraltar history, in a period of colonial expansion, all kept in a large Georgian building with grounds. The mindsets of those that congregated around the Library shaped these collections. The Gibraltar Garrison Library was also responsible for establishing print culture on the Rock, with the first edition of the *Gibraltar Chronicle* printed in May 1801, a newspaper which remains the second oldest newspaper in English continuously in print. We remain committed to this legacy which includes examples of our literature no longer in print, archival materials and over 200,000 photographic images.

Drawing attention to our wide heritage significance is important and this fact has shaped our planning to increase accessibility and relevance beyond our Gibraltar footprint. Whilst far more resourced than prior to 2011, we are nevertheless dealing with the legacy of an over fifty-year period of limited

finances. Our current projects aim at addressing some of these issues, offering at the same time an insight into how we have set about achieving our aims, striking a balance between conservation and infrastructural works to pave the way for digital provision.

### Projects

Building conservation raises questions regarding the prevailing tension between conservation methods and modern building materials and practices, and the sometimes lack of expertise from contractors more generally geared towards to new build rather than conservation.



The conservation of the balustrade was once such project. Adorning as it does our front garden and main entrance, it was important for us to outwardly show our engagement with the conservation of both building and grounds. The balustrade had been a cause for concern for a number of years; a number of the sandstone balusters were severely eroded, with their condition further exacerbated by pollutants from emissions from the traffic below. Concerns were additionally raised over structural integrity, which compelled us to cover it up by way of holding it together. Works on the balustrade commenced February 2018 but were not to be completed until the summer of 2019. As it happened, works were stopped almost immediately upon commencement as the intervention seemed rather abrasive against an already fragile structure.

#### **The Restored Balustrade**

Our contractors had perceived structural integrity as the overriding factor in these works rather than striking the necessary balance between the safety of the structure and its conversation. But we did strike this balance, proceeding only once consultations with stone conservators and structural engineers met the needs of the project at hand. Whilst this did entail replacing a number of the sandstone balusters with newly commissioned limestone elements, the dismantling and reassembling of the balustrade uncovered previous restoration works on the stonework. We discovered that a number of the sandstone balusters had been replaced with limestone ones, during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and most likely for the same reasons pertaining to erosion of the stone. As such, not only do now we know much more about the history of the balustrade, but we felt reassured that our methodology was in keeping with previous interventions. Engaging in this project also drew attention to the grittiness of such endeavours; they do not always run smoothly but we took the time to understand how best to proceed rather than push forward towards the unknown.

**The Gibraltar Chronicle Building (Town Range facing)** This was another important project for us, given that our aims were to recover a historic building of public significance, whilst creating functional office space as a means to free-up some of the more decorative reading rooms in the Library. This building had been vacant for about fifteen years; we have thus far managed to restore the top floor, with works carried out between January - May 2019. In comparison to the balustrade, this was a relatively straightforward project as works on the roof had already been undertaken. We were able to conserve all the original Georgian panelling, cabinets, and in the process, recovered a vaulted ceiling secreted above a 1960c suspended ceiling. This was a lovely surprise and whilst the ceiling did require some intervention, especially the coving, we worked towards conserving all the parts that could be rescued, relacing those parts beyond repair with replicas. The original Canadian pine flooring had remained intact, protected to a great extent by paint and a very thick linoleum. Essential for us was the upgrading of the electrical installation, whilst remaining true to the heritage significance of this building. The ground floor is designated to become a Print Culture Interpretation Centre. Our aim is for this Centre to become the portal into a corridor transporting visitors from an analogue age of

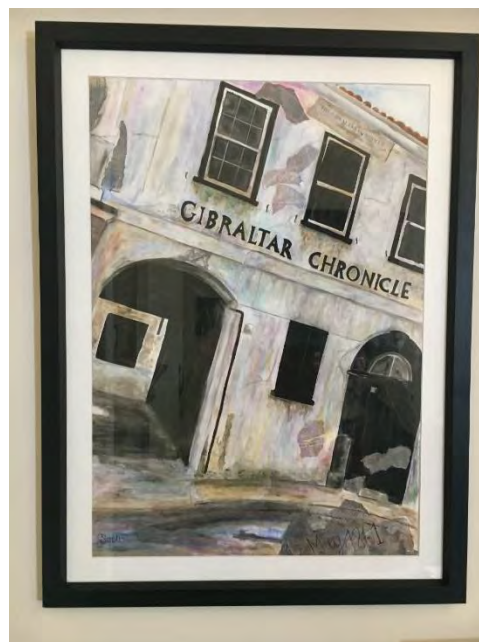
printing into the digital world in our basement, where our digital centre is to be located. Whilst still a project in the making, we are planning some very interesting educational and community outreach activities which will offer interactive engagements with both traditional printing practices to demonstrate the evolution into our digital age.

### **The Gibraltar Chronicle - Artist: Stella Stych (2018)**

#### **Basement**

This leads us straight into the Basement project, which commenced June 2019 and is, at the time of writing, close to completion. The basement, which has the same footprint as the floors above, had been a dead space for many years. We have used our heritage assets as a base, working with the space rather than try to shape it to meet our vision. As such, the stonework has been exposed; limestone slabs and bricks cleaned and repointed with lime-based mortar; original windows and doors reconditioned where possible except where the statutory requirement for fire doors have otherwise dictated. The basement will accommodate a digitisation programme alongside a paper conservation

department. A fully climatized book and artwork repository is to be located in the largest section of the basement, which has been tanked with a conservation grade membrane to effectively manage the environment control system that is due to be installed. All materials are completely reversible with no damage caused to the original walls, or flagstones. The technical elements that now inform this space have been complex, but we have worked within the heritage and environmental confines of the basement to bring the function of the Gibraltar Garrison Library into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. As with the proposed Print Culture Interpretation Centre, we are driven by the need to increase footfall and accessibility to our collections, both physically and digitally, thus expanding



our visibility and outreach potential to local and global communities.

As with the balustrade, we have been faced with challenges, one of which was figuring out how to carry electrical cabling to the front-facing basement without breaching the walls. The least invasive suggestion was to carry the electrics though the floor, via a connecting vaulted chamber. As the floor was covered in a thick layer of concrete, most likely post WWII, the idea was to cut a channel though this, resulting in the discovery of the original clay brick floor c.1801 beneath. Now fully exposed, we face the second challenge of protecting it. And as to the electrics, well, we found another route.

#### **The Basement showing part of the recovered 1801c floor.**



We have also managed to restore two fireplaces, one more formally ornate than the other. The first was a brick hearth that was at risk from collapsing, given the insertion at some point in the 20<sup>th</sup> century of a steel bar which has corroded and expanded, placing great pressure upon the structure. The bar has now been removed and the hearth rebuilt using the original bricks. The second is currently in the process of being restored with the support of the Friends of Gibraltar. This fireplace, located in the vaulted chamber, was also

caught up in concrete. Whilst the fireplace Victorian mantel and sides are now partially restored, some elements were missing, with our restorer making replacement pieces following conservation guidelines, by painting the new additions in a different colour to demarcate the process.

The final story of the restoration will merit a further article. Meanwhile, our drive to remain relevant and accessible has only, and could only, have ever been possible through the conservation of the fabric of our historic library. The end result will be the transformation of a heritage building into a professional institutional space that functions at many levels; through the conservation of a built environment for all to enjoy, whilst also developing professional library services. These measures, I would suggest, set a perfect setting for increased footfall and digital accessibility, thus opening this space to a variety of communities, each seeking a different aspect of what the Gibraltar Garrison Library has to offer.

## David Latimer Tinling Widdrington, Lieut.- General, KCH

*Paul Blake BA, DipGen, FSG*

Buried in the churchyard of St Mary the Virgin, Bexley in Kent is Lieutenant-General Sir David Latimer Tinling Widdrington. His elegant chest tomb, just west of the south porch, is inscribed at follows:

SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF  
 LIEUTENANT GENERAL SIR DAVID LATIMER TINLING WIDDRINGTON  
 MILITARY KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE HANOVERIAN GUELPHIC ORDER  
 WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 30 JULY 1839 IN 82ND YEAR OF HIS AGE  
 HE SERVED HIS COUNTRY WITH HONOR AND GREAT CREDIT DURING A PERIOD OF 60 YEARS  
 BEGINNING AT THE MEMORABLE SIEGE OF GIBRALTER, AFTERWARDS IN EVERY PART OF THE WORLD  
 AND RECEIVED FROM HIS COUNTRY AN ANNUITY "FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICES"  
 HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE CONSOLIDATED BOARD AND GENERAL OFFICERS  
 HE EXPIRED IN THIS PARISH AT THE TEMPORARY RESIDENCE OF HIS SON  
 REV<sup>D</sup> SIDNEY HENRY WIDDRINGTON A.M. OF HAUXLY HALL NORTHUMBERLAND  
 HIS SURVIVING CHILDREN RAISE THIS MONUMENT  
 IN TRULY GRATEFUL RECOLLECTION OF ONE OF THE VERY BEST OF FATHERS  
 AS A SMALL TOKEN OF THEIR DEVOTED AFFECTION TO HIM AND REGARD TO HIS MEMORY  
 AND THEY REST IN HOPE THAT FROM A STATE MILITANT HERE IN EARTH  
 HE HAS NOW ENTERED THE CHURCH TRIUMPHANT IN HEAVEN



*David Latimer Tinling Widdrington's monument at St Mary the Virgin, Bexley. Photograph courtesy of Di Swinfield.*

David Latimer Tinling, it has been stated, was born on 23 July 1758<sup>1</sup> in Gibraltar, the seventh of ten children of Isaac Tinling (1720-1781) and Johanna née Stubbs (1722-1801).

Isaac was a carpenter for the Board of Ordnance working in Menorca from the 1730s, where his first six children were born. The Board of Ordnance was not itself a part of the British army, by a department of state in charge of all the crown's forts and armaments.

Following Menorca's capture by France, at the start of the Seven Years War in June 1756, the British contingent of around 4000

stationed there left Mahón in 32 French transports on 10 July, bound for Gibraltar <sup>2,3</sup>. From 1757 to 1763 Isaac was employed by the Board of Ordnance in Gibraltar.

Under the 1763 Treaty of Paris, Menorca was restored to Britain, which it then held until 1782. The Tinling family returned to Menorca where they had a presence until at least 1781. David Latimer started work as a Carpenter for the Board of Ordnance, aged 12, in 1771 in Menorca. In 1777 he returned to Gibraltar, as an Overseer. In 1779, he became Assistant Engineer and Draughtsman to the Chief Engineer <sup>4,5</sup>. A plan of a castle in Menorca drawn by him in about 1798 survives <sup>6</sup>.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Foot had proceeded to Gibraltar in 1769, to relieve the 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment then on garrison duty, where it spent the next fourteen years. This period included the siege and blockade of the Rock by the Spaniards from 24 June 1779 to 7 February 1783. He was wounded in November 1781 at Willis's Battery <sup>7</sup>. While in Gibraltar, then as Assistant-Engineer, he received his first commission on 23 July 1782, as Ensign, from General Picton, Colonel of the 12th Regiment <sup>8</sup>.

The regiment was relieved from duty at the fortress in November 1783, returning to England. David Latimer was subsequently awarded Sir Thomas Picton's Medal to British forces present during the siege.

David Latimer Tinling married Sarah Teesdale on 1 November 1784 at St Peter the Great, Chichester.<sup>9</sup> She was a co-heiress to the estates of her uncles, John and Nathaniel Widdrington and in 1798 was granted permission by Royal Licence 'to take and use the surname of Widdrington only, in pursuance of the last will and testament of John Widdrington'.<sup>10</sup>

On 3 March 1809, David Latimer was granted, by Royal Licence, permission to 'assume and take the surname Widdrington in addition to his present name of Tinling' with his children to 'assume and take the said surname of Widdrington only'.<sup>11</sup>

David Latimer Tinling's subsequent career is outlined in his own *Journal* <sup>12</sup>, and in obituaries published in the *Gentleman's Magazine* <sup>13</sup>, the *Royal Military Calendar* <sup>14</sup> and the *Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service* <sup>15</sup> - the latter reporting:

On the 4th Oct. 1786 he succeeded to a Lieutenancy by purchase; and in 1790 and 1791, was employed with his regiment on board Lord Howe's fleet, as marines. On the breaking out of the war with France, he was employed to raise an independent company in Ireland, which in 1793 was turned over to the 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment, and he exchanged by purchase to the 17th, which in 1794 sailed from Southampton for the West Indies; but having been driven back by foul weather, was encamped at Cork until the following years, during which interval Capt. Tinling officiated as Commissary-general. In May 1796 he arrived at St Domingo, having been appointed a Brigade Major, but he was driven home by disease, and narrowly escaped with his life.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan. 1797 he succeeded to a Majority in the regiment; and [on 6] Aug. 1799 was appointed Lieut.-Colonel of the 2d battalion, then raised from volunteers from the militia. He was actively employed in Holland during the Duke of York's campaigns; and from 1800 to the end of the war in 1802 served with his regiment in the Mediterranean. He was, on returning home, immediately appointed an Inspecting Field-Officer on the recruiting service.

David Latimer was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 1809; and to that of Major-General on 1 January 1812. He was then appointed to the Staff of Gibraltar departing for the Rock in April 1812. He recorded these events in his *Journal*:

On the 1<sup>st</sup>. Jan<sup>y</sup>. 1812 I arrived at the rank of Major General and was appointed to the Staff of Gibraltar, and as dear George was not perfectly recovered of his wound, I wished him to retire upon half pay for a time and to go with me to Gibraltar as my Aide de Camp, and for that purpose he waited upon Sir H.



*Sir Thomas Picton's Medal, awarded to David Latimer Tinling. Sold at auction in December 2013 for £4,200.*

Torrens to carry it into effect – He never held such hopes of further promotion that we gave it up, and George accompanied me to Portsmouth – I to embark for Gibraltar and he to join the 83<sup>d</sup> regiment in Spain.

Major George John was his eldest son; he was to die soon after from wounds received at the Battle of Vitoria in 1813, in northern Spain.

In August 1815, David Latimer prosecuted at a General Court-martial in Gibraltar, several of the surgeons for 'a disgraceful mismanagement of their Hospitals and the concerns of the sick' <sup>16</sup>. Shortly after, in December he was recalled, his departure eliciting the following address from the Reverend Don Isidoro Domincuez <sup>17</sup>:

The Reverend Don Isidoro Domincuez, Apostolic Vicar General, and sole Chief of the Catholic Church in his garrison, deputed by his Holiness Pius the Seventh, by this respected manner, and as the organ of this congregation, approaches the respectable person of Major-General Tingling Widdrington, second in command in this garrison, to express the deep sorrow which they feel at his departure from it, and to convey to him their sincere and candid testimony of the distinguished appreciation, esteem and veneration, which will be ever entertained for him by the people of the town, for the protection which he has indiscriminately afforded in all classes, subjects of his Britannic Majesty, whom God preserve, of the various persuasions who reside in this place.

In effect, the name of Major-General Widdrington will ever be cited with the greatest honour and the most tender sentiments; by the orphans, of whom, by his kindness, he became the father; by all classes of the afflicted, to whom he was consolation and relief, particularly when he walked the streets and visited the habitations during the last Epidemic with which Providence visited this town; and the commerce of it, to whose prosperity he contributed by all the means within his search; they will all <--> the <---> of a protector so generally known as the friend of the good, and the enemy of the bad and perverse.

The Vicar General, in expressing these sentiments, on which he does not further enlarge, fearful of wounding the modesty and delicacy of General Widdrington, he cannot do less on his part than to offer General Widdrington his thanks for the part which he took with his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, previously to his landing, in order that he might sanction the opening of the church's <--->, in which the Catholics had the means of assembling to address their solemn thanksgiving to God, and acts of grace; for his infinite clemency, in having removed and dissipated the horrors, and ceasing to afflict this town with the sickness of last year. The Vicar, Sir, finally, in the religious offices of his ministry, will address at all times to the High and Most Powerful Lord his vows and weak prayers for the health of Major-General Widdrington and his family, and for their happiness and prosperity, in whatever situation Providence may be pleased to place him and them in.

Sir, your most obedient humble servant,  
Isidoro Domincuez  
Apostolic Vicar General  
Gibraltar, Nov. 4, 1815

With his family, he departed Gibraltar in January 1816, arriving in Portsmouth the following month. His wife, Sarah died in Portsmouth not long after they arrived home. She was buried on 6 March 1816, aged 52, at the Royal Garrison Church of St. John the Baptist and St. Nicholas.<sup>18</sup> Having now been appointed to the Staff in Canada <sup>19</sup>, David Latimer left for Portsmouth for Quebec on the Wye on 29 June 1816 <sup>20</sup> where he was stationed in Montreal, and later in Kingston. He therefore probably returned home in 1818 with his final promotion to that of Lieut.-General on 27 May 1825 <sup>21</sup>.

He was made Military Knight Commander of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order (KCH) in 1833, and on 22 February 1833 his Knighthood was conferred by William IV.<sup>22</sup>

David Latimer Tinling Widdrington died on 30 July 1839 at his son's house in Bexley, Kent and was buried four days later in the parish churchyard of St Mary the Virgin.<sup>23</sup>

Four of David Latimer's brothers (John, William, Isaac Pattison and George) had highly successful careers in the Board of Ordnance or the British Army. His four sisters (Elizabeth, Mary, Augusta and Johanna) all 'married well'. However, it was his youngest brother who also had connections with Gibraltar and the Great Siege.

on the 1<sup>st</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1812 I arrived at the rank of Major-General and was appointed to the Staff of Gibraltar, and as dear George was not perfectly recovered of his wound I wished him to retire upon half pay for a time and to go with me to Gibraltar as my Aide-de-Camp, and for that purpose he waited upon Sir M. Temm to carry it into effect. He however held out such hopes of further promotion that we gave it up, and George accompanied me to Portsmouth. I embarked for Gibraltar and he to join the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment in Spain.

Extract from 'Journal of David Latimer Tinling Widdrington'



View of the north part of Gibraltar, and of the attack by land and sea Sept<sup>r</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> 1782. Published in *Historical record of the Twelfth, or the East Suffolk, Regiment of Foot* (1848)

Charles Ashley Stubbs Tinling was born in Chichester in about 1765 <sup>24</sup> and entered the Royal Navy at Mahon, Menorca as an Able Seaman in 1780 on board HMS *Porcupine*, a 24-gun *Porcupine*-class sixth-rate post ship <sup>25</sup>. She was stationed at Gibraltar during the Great Siege. In June 1782 the garrison there launched 12 gunboats. Each was armed with an 18-pounder gun and received a crew of 21 men drawn from Royal Navy vessels stationed at Gibraltar. *Porcupine* provided crews for five of the gunboats and Tinling was appointed to the command of

one. He later served as an Ensign with the marine brigade on shore <sup>26</sup>. According to his entry in John Marshall's *Royal Naval Biography* <sup>27</sup>, 'he greatly distinguished himself during the memorable attack made on that fortress by the combined forces of France and Spain, in September 1782'.

Shortly after, the *San Miguel*, a Spanish two-decker, was driven under the walls of Gibraltar, and captured by the garrison. This ship was commanded by Sir Charles H. Knowles, and Tinling served on her till the conclusion of the war. He passed for Lieutenant in 1793, and after a lengthy and notable

career, he was appointed Rear Admiral of the Red in August 1840, dying three months later, on 27 November in Southampton. His full career is detailed in Marshall's *Royal Naval Biography*<sup>28</sup> and his obituary in the *Gentleman's Magazine*<sup>29</sup>, as well as records held at The National Archives<sup>30</sup>.

The Tinlings were a notable family with many Gibraltar connections. If any Friend has further information about the family in Gibraltar, or Menorca, this writer would be delighted to know more.

- <sup>1</sup> Skeet, Francis John Angus, *History of the families of Skeet, Somerscales, Widdrington, Wilby, Murray, Blake, Grimshaw, and others* (1906)
- <sup>2</sup> Mata, Micaela, *Conquests and reconquests of Menorca* (English translation, 1984)
- <sup>3</sup> Gregory, Desmond, *Minorca, the illusory prize* (1990)
- <sup>4</sup> *Royal Engineers Journal*, January 1912
- <sup>5</sup> Spilsbury, John, *A Journal of the Siege of Gibraltar – 1779-1783* (edited by BHT Freer, 1908)
- <sup>6</sup> TNA: WO 78/1015 (8)
- <sup>7</sup> Spilsbury
- <sup>8</sup> *London Gazette*, 20 July 1782
- <sup>9</sup> Marriage register of St Peter the Great, Chichester
- <sup>10</sup> *London Gazette*: 19 June 1798
- <sup>11</sup> *London Gazette*: 4 March 1809
- <sup>12</sup> *Journal of David Latimer Tinling Widdrington [1796-1813]* (Rice University: <https://hdl.handle.net/1911/103352>)
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- <sup>15</sup> *Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service* (10 August 1839)
- <sup>16</sup> *St James Chronicle*: 2 September 1815
- <sup>17</sup> *Star*: 16 December 1815
- <sup>18</sup> Burial register of the Royal Garrison Church of St. John the Baptist and St. Nicholas, Portsmouth
- <sup>19</sup> *Star*: 11 June 1815
- <sup>20</sup> *Star*: 1 July 1816
- <sup>21</sup> Hayden, Joseph T Haydn and Horace Ockerley, *The book of dignities ... re-modelled and brought down to 1851* (1890)
- <sup>22</sup> Nicholas, Nicholas H, *History of the Orders of Knighthood of the British Empire; of the order of the Guelphs Hanover; and of the medals, clasps and crosses, conferred for naval and military services* (1842); *London Gazette*: 26 February 1833
- <sup>23</sup> Burial Register of St Mary the Virgin, Bexley, Kent
- <sup>24</sup> TNA: ADM 36/11365; ADM 36/12605
- <sup>25</sup> TNA: ADM 36/9796
- <sup>26</sup> Spilsbury
- <sup>27</sup> Marshall, John, *Royal Naval Biography*, vol.2 pt.1 (1824)
- <sup>28</sup> *ibid*
- <sup>29</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*: January 1841
- <sup>30</sup> TNA: ADM 196/6/372; ADM 9/2/16

## My experience of Gibraltar in the 1950s

Lillian Brock

I was married a few days after my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 1951. My husband was in the RAF and he was posted to Gibraltar soon afterwards. It was not an ideal situation for newly-weds and my husband extended his service with the RAF so that I could join him. I travelled to Gibraltar in October 1952. Along with other service wives, I stayed overnight at a camp near London where I was billeted with a sergeant's wife and her three children. We travelled on a Vickers propeller plane with canvas



I was married a few days after my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday in December 1951. My husband was in the RAF and he was posted to Gibraltar soon afterwards. It was not an ideal situation for newly-weds and my husband extended his service with the RAF so that I could join him. I travelled to Gibraltar in October 1952. Along with other service wives, I stayed overnight at a camp near London where I was billeted seats that was provided by Hunting Air Transport. In an era when flights go non-stop from the UK to Australia, it might seem strange to hear that we made a refuelling stop in Bordeaux.

Accommodation in Gibraltar was limited. There was a points system to qualify for married quarters at the Devil's Tower Camp. The sergeant's wife with her three children qualified under this system but we as a childless couple did not. My husband had rented

two rooms in Turnbull's Lane that were owned by the Santos family. It was only a living room with a tiny kitchen and he struggled to afford them on RAF pay. There was no running water. We had to climb the stairs to the roof and bring the water down in buckets to place in an "Ali Baba" earthenware container. There was similarly no drain. That was a bucket under the kitchen sink. There was a flush toilet which was shared by all the 12 occupants of the building and bathing consisted of a visit to the public baths once a week. We quickly made friends with the Santos family, especially Domingo Santos who was similar to us in age.



Life on Gib for me was magic. I had never been out of the UK before and I was glad to leave the cold and the rain behind. Sweets were still rationed in the UK but they were freely available in Gibraltar and I made the most of that situation. Cream cakes were another unknown luxury and I often met with other RAF wives in the coffee shops. In my husband's free time,



we explored places like the Alameda Gardens and the Upper Rock. A favourite picnic spot was Catalan Bay which was relatively undeveloped at the time. Our stay in Gibraltar coincided with the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2 June 1953 and we attended two events in connection with that. On the Sunday preceding the coronation, a memorial service was held on Casemates Square. There was also a parade on the day of the coronation itself. Participants included a contingent from the French cruiser, Gloire, a contingent from the American destroyer, USS William R. Rush, and a contingent from the Royal Navy's HMS Daring. Also involved were the Royal Artillery, the Royal Air Force and the Scouts and Girl Guides. It was a moving ceremony and we stood for hours at the North Front Airfield in hot weather. I was pregnant with my first child and it was uncomfortable. My son was born in the British Military Hospital in August. The Air Officer Commanding insisted that my husband bring us back from the hospital in his limousine and we arrived home in style with the Union Jack flying from the bonnet. Life as a service mother in Gibraltar was not always easy. I had to push a pram up three flights of stairs. The Santos family took the baby to their hearts and made him beautiful clothes. I will never forget their kindness to me and my child. The Salvation Army had a café in Engineer Lane which provided a meeting place for service wives.

We left Gibraltar on my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday in December 1953. My husband's service in the RAF was coming to an end. He had the option of extending it and the Santos family offered him a civilian job. We were sad to leave them but we missed our families in the UK.

We went back to Gibraltar in 1982 and it was a memorable trip. It was the period leading up to the Falklands War and Gibraltar played an important role in the preparation of the task force that sailed out to regain the Falklands. Pictured here is the SS Uganda which was being converted from a cruise liner to a hospital ship. As we left the airport, we were approached by the BBC news correspondent, Kate Adie who asked us to take some film back to the UK that was to be shown as part of the nightly news.



Gibraltar had changed substantially from how I remembered it. Places like Catalan Bay were full of buildings that had not been there before. One

thing that has not changed is my enormous affection for the place and I look forward to my next visit in December.

## **A tour in Gibraltar with the RAF June 1976 – May 1979**

*Harvey and Tricia Johnson*

What a difference forty odd years makes!!! Especially from the military perspective, for example, in the late 1970's Gibraltar had a very large military garrison numbering many thousands of Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force (RAF) personnel in residence plus many accompanying families. The RAF had over 500 airmen and officers stationed at RAF Gibraltar with three fighter aircraft which were kept at constant fully armed readiness. In addition, there was a succession of UK and NATO exercises which took place from there each year. How the numbers have declined!



Preparations for Harvey's tour began in February 1976 just one month before the birth of our daughter, Helen, when Harvey received his posting notice for his tour in Gibraltar. This was exciting news although it sparked some trepidation given that we would have a new baby and also the fact that the border was closed.

1977

However, Harvey flew out in June 1976 and Helen and I joined him in the August, flying out courtesy of Dan Air. Our first accommodation was a portacabin within the Four Corners area because there were no quarters available until December 76 when we moved into 6 Joubert House. This was where we lived for the rest of the tour which we thoroughly enjoyed. The back of the flat overlooked No Man's Land, the border and of course La Linea.

Each evening we were treated to the changing of the Spanish guard and also to hearing family members shouting across the border. This must have been so hard for them, which was confirmed last year in the exhibition of photographs and memorabilia from that time, held in John Mackintosh Hall and films which were being shown in the Gallery in Casemates.

*Changing the Spanish Guard*



Gibraltar was Harvey's favourite posting, we both enjoyed the warmth, the people, and taking advantage of many different opportunities even with the closed border. We attended evening classes to learn Spanish and to learn the theoretical side of sailing. Harvey was a very keen sailor which led to the purchase of our first sailing cruiser, Mandali, a 27 foot Van der Stadt design. She was amazing to sail and very forgiving!! A good job, we had many scary moments coming back round Europa Point into Gibraltar bay. We have many sailing tales that we often relate but, not here. Suffice it to say that she provided us with several holidays in Spain. Estepona was very different then with just the harbour wall to moor against. We hit the harbour wall on one occasion because the engine failed. It is amazing where people come from when something like that happens!!! Very embarrassing!! Development of the current marina was commenced during our last few visits.

We were very lucky to make good friends whilst out there, several of whom we are still in contact with some 41 years later. The social life was amazing, functions in the RAF Mess, parties with friends, very moving concerts in St Michael's Cave performed by the Royal Green Jackets, sailing to Spain, visits to Morocco via the Mons Calpe to Tangiers and a wonderful holiday near Casa Blanca. This holiday was facilitated by the use of a static van owned by the Army and a Land Rover which they lent us. We also took trips up the Rock in our very old Ford Anglia, known as a Rock Runner. It served us well for most of the time but, one day, as I was driving back from Buena Vista, travelling down Europa Road, near the Queens Cinema and Trafalgar Cemetery, the brakes failed! Oh my goodness, but luck was with



me, there was little traffic and I was able to drive very, very slowly back home, no damage done, until Harvey, who didn't believe me, tried it out and bumped into the wall at the back of Joubert House!! Luckily no damage then either! As we walk past the Trafalgar Cemetery and Queens Cinema now, I reflect on that situation and think, thank goodness the traffic was very light then.

#### *1978 The Queen's Birthday Parade*

One weekend Harvey and a good friend, Tom, decided to paint the car to give it a face lift. A good idea we all thought, the car was painted maroon with a black trim. Harvey painted one side and Tom the other, they made excellent progress. Ivy and I went down to see the end

result, it looked much smarter BUT one side the black trim was wide and the other it was narrow!! It was not irredeemable; the thin trim was widened.

During the summer months life was wonderful. The wives used to meet most afternoons on Western Beach, beside the Mess, with the children, where there was also a small beach bar. We would be joined by our husbands who finished work relatively early, for a sun-downers. At weekends there were yacht races, not really our scene but we did participate a couple of times with extra crew on board.

With the border being closed it was often difficult to get certain items such as fresh eggs and milk being highly prized. If children were asked where eggs came from the reply was, 'from the Hercules'. Well....yes they were flown in regularly, one of the highlights of our tour. Occasionally a cruise ship would call in but generally tourists were few and far between. All this however created a common sense of comradeship and life was very enjoyable. When we first arrived we would watch with amusement the same cars going past on Devil Tower Road on Sundays about every half hour. These were people just driving round and round the rock for something to do. But by the end of our three years we had joined them.



#### *After the Queen's Birthday Parade*

It has been interesting to observe the changes that have taken place in Gibraltar since the border opened and since we have been visiting the Rock regularly over the last 30 years; firstly having joined the Friends of Gibraltar during a June visit and now that we have our boat moored in Queensway Quay Marina. The vibrance has been palpable and pleasing to experience when compared to the late 70's. Unless there was a Naval Ship or a Cruise Ship in port, Main Street was virtually empty, although we would meet mothers, grandmothers and children promenading in the afternoons. As has already been

alluded to there were very few cars, Casemates housed the Moroccan workers, and the central area was a car park. A far cry from the current layout of Casemates.

We had such an enjoyable tour; we now love visiting Gibraltar as often as possible. When Helen visited with her daughter just two years ago, she said the same as we always say, 'It feels as if we are coming home'. We consider ourselves very lucky to have our boat *Enfys* moored in Queensway Quay Marina, this enables our frequent visits, when Covid-19 allows!!

## Fortress Fantasia

*Neil Norfolk*

Surfing the Web I came across "Fortress Fantasia" on YouTube. This evoked memories of my time in Gibraltar in 1990 under the first Commander British Forces when all three Services on the Rock came together under unified military command beneath the Governor. Sparks did fly!

To celebrate, a Military Tattoo was staged in Camp Bay on three evenings. Various bands and display teams came out from the UK to participate in this unique event.

For her efforts in support, Gabrielle, my wife, was presented with a framed picture of the opening scene from the video, which still hangs in our lounge today.

If you want to watch the hour-long video, go to YouTube and type Fortress Fantasia.



**Gibraltar National Archives**

HM Government of Gibraltar

## Ploughing On: Gibraltar National Archives 2020

*Anthony W Pitaluga, MBE*

2020, has been, and continues to be an extraordinary year for us all, not least for the Gibraltar National Archives (GNA). Oblivious of the magnitude of what was to come in March, our data gathering stage regarding the Victory in Europe 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition started in January 2020.

To get a better understanding of the task at hand, i.e., organizing, conceptualising, and curating the Victory in Europe exhibition, I decided to start my research in Germany and UK. Arguably, the Second World War is the most sourced period of modern history, so, I reasoned, that by visiting key sites and centres in Berlin and London I stood a better chance of elucidating as accurate a knowledge of the war as possible. This in turn, would allow us to deliver a clearer and more precise representation of what

had transpired during the war, at the exhibition. Albeit, focusing primarily, but not exclusively on the Gibraltar angle.

Accompanied by Tina, my wife, I visited Berlin through the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January 2020. We obtained important material from several institutions in Berlin, including the German War Archives, the Topographie des Terrors, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe information centre and a few others.



**Figure 1: Former Gestapo HQ Berlin 2020**



In the last week of January, accompanied by Gerard Wood, my deputy, we travelled to London again gathering data and conducting research at key London institution such as The National Archives (TNA), The Imperial War Museum and the Liddell Hart Information Centre, Kings College London. The exhibition should have taken place in May of this year, nevertheless, for reasons all of us are more than aware of, it had to be postponed until October. More about the exhibition later.

**Figure 2: Gerard Wood GNA Deputy at the Liddell Hart Information Centre King's College London January 2020**

Just before the pandemic hit, in February 2020, Lieutenant General Ed Davis, Governor of Gibraltar awarded me his medal/coin for excellence regarding services to the GNA.

**Figure 3: Lieutenant General Davis presenting me with the Governor of Gibraltar Medal. The Convent February 2020**



Like most countries in Europe, March through to June saw lockdown in Gibraltar. The GNA was forced to shut its reading room to the public and our international enquiry services was severely affected. My staff was re-deployed to the Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) under emergency Civil Contingency regulations leaving me solo at GNA. With no staff, community workers or volunteers, the access to the reading room, the digitisation, and cataloguing projects ground to a halt. By early April, at the height of lockdown the cleaner and myself were the only two persons with access to the GNA building at the Convent Courtyard.

Aware that most people were confined at home with more hours to kill than usual, I decided to publish (within the GNA website) a corpus of information taken from our Gibraltar Registry collection. I teamed up with my friend and collaborator, anthropology Professor Larry Sawchuck, from Toronto University in Canada, who had undertaken extensive research into the Gibraltar Registry some years ago. The result of this collaboration made possible the publication online of a significant number of records regarding Marriages and Births recorded in Gibraltar between 1870 and 1920. The final number of births and marriages records we published during lockdown came close to 27,000. These records are now freely available for consultation from the GNA website, along with the earliest Trade Permit registers held at GNA, 1819-1830, consisting of about 7,000 records, a register of Protestant Marriage Licenses recorded at Gibraltar 1802-1883, and a register of Jewish people ordered to leave Gibraltar in 1786. This was published under the Gibraltar Inhabitants project I started in 2014. The total number of records available within the Gibraltar Inhabitants online is now nearing the quarter of a million mark. To complement the above corpus of text-based material, I edited, produced, and published several films during lockdown. The result was a series of four new digital online videos published as follows: *Video 1 - Treasures of the GNA: The oldest document held in Gibraltar, the Cabildo (Municipality) de Gibraltar Petition 1577. Delivered by my good friend, historian, author, publisher and antiquarian from La Linea, Juan Manuel Ballesta (34 minutes)*

*Video 2* - The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the GNA Exhibition 1969-2019 (12 minutes)

*Video 3* - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II visit to Gibraltar in May 1954. Narrated by Anthony Adamberry (19 minutes)

*Video 4* - Finally, on May 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, the day of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe and also the day we should have officially opened our Victory in Europe exhibition, I published *Victory in Europe*, a commemorative video that previewed the exhibition that would eventually open, in October.

The Victory in Europe exhibition and parallel events opened at the John Mackintosh Hall on Friday 2nd and closed on Friday 31st October 2020. The aims were threefold, firstly to mark and honour the vast scale of loss caused by the Second World War. Secondly to remember and bring to light the important role Gibraltar played during the conflict. Finally, to commemorate Victory in Europe (V-E Day 8th May 1945), the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces seventy-five years ago, which gave end to the War in Europe.

Running parallel to the exhibition montage several other events took place. We recorded live testimonials by evacuees on video, pursuant to the production and publication of a new video entitled *The Day War Ended* starring Tito Benady, Louis Pereira, Cecil Gomez and Lydia & Jack Armstrong complimented with war poems read by Anthony Adamberry, narrator extraordinaire, and music by Brahms.

A very successfully lecture series also took place, with talks every Tuesday and Thursday at the John Mackintosh Hall during October. Eight speakers took part namely, Pete Jackson *A City Underground?*, Tito Vallejo *'Olterra' Trojan Horse*, Richard Garcia *Keeping In Touch During Wartime*, Keith Sheriff *Prisoners Of War Held At Gibraltar*, Tito Benady *Force H At Gibraltar*, Ian Reyes *Defending An Invasion*, Ian Balestrino *Air Raids On The Rock* and Geraldine Finlayson *Operation Tracer Stay Behind Cave*. The entire lecture series is now accessible on the GNA website.

#### **Figure 4: Aircraft assembly at Gibraltar during WW2**

There were also feature WW2 films projected daily during exhibition opening times projected on an over-sized high-definition monitor and digital public address system. The highlight, four hours' worth of Gibraltar footage during the Second World War purchased from the Imperial War Museum in London. Available for viewing exclusively at the GNA premises by prior appointment.



#### **The Exhibition**

I divided the main exhibition into six photo montage sections as follows:

##### **Section 1 - The Gathering Storm**

This section comprises twenty-four images displayed within twenty panels. It covers the period January 1933 to the Summer of 1940. From Adolf Hitler's appointment as Reich Chancellor, through 1939, and Germany's invasion of Poland and the subsequent Anglo-French declaration of War. The section ends with the Evacuation of the civilian population of Gibraltar.



**Figure 5: The GNA staff in front of the Victory in Europe exhibition banner. John Mackintosh Hall Friday 30th October 2020**

### Section 2 - Home Front & Defences

This section comprises seventy images displayed within twenty-three panels. It covers the period 1939 to 1944. A montage of some of Gibraltar's important defence installations and fortifications improved to levels never seen before. The construction of the airfield, the enhancements to the Naval

Dockyard and dry docks, the improvements to the coastal defences and the protection of the commercial harbour and bunkering facilities crucial to the war effort.

**Figure 6: Responding to Italy's threat to invade Abyssinia (Ethiopia), the British Battle Cruisers Hood & Renown accompanied by the Second Cruiser Squadron and Flotilla assembled at Gibraltar 20<sup>th</sup> September 1935**



### Section 3 - Underground City & Hospital

This section comprises twenty-five images displayed within thirteen panels. Shot in 1942, the images show a self-sufficient working hospital, complete, with surgical unit operating theatre, recovery wards, X-Ray department, dispensary, Fire & Communications Control Centre, road and rail networks, support staff and cookhouse.

**Figure 7: Plan of Gort's Hospital 1942**

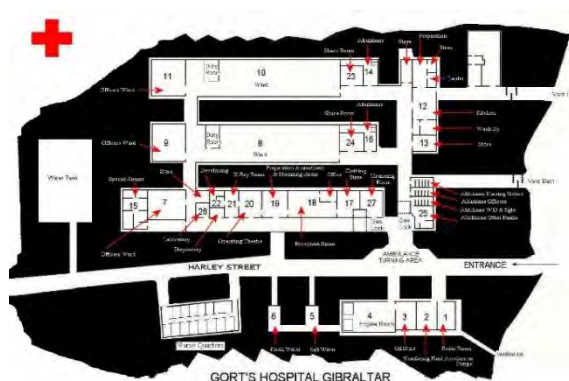


### Section 4 - The Gibraltar Defence Force

This section comprises fifty-five images displayed within twenty-one panels. It covers the period 1939 to 1944. The formation of The

Gibraltar Defence Force (GDF) and the first of the Gibraltarian volunteers to sign on. Devoted to the GDF, the section displays Regimental groups as well individuals, showing both the collective as well as particular angles of the local force.

**Figure 8: Regimental Cap Badge Gibraltar Defence Force 1940**



### Section 5 - Gibraltar Under Enemy Attack

This section comprises seventy-seven images displayed within thirty panels. It covers the period 1940-1944 showing enemy propaganda as well as actual enemy damage sustained at Gibraltar. From damages to the Town and defence infrastructure to the results of air and sea enemy action on allied shipping.

**Figure 9: French bombing of Gibraltar 1940**



### Section 6 - Victory in Europe

This section comprises sixty-eight images displayed within twenty-eight panels. It covers the period of the 28th April 1945, through the announcement of the end of the war on the 8th of May 1945, and the declaration of Victory in Europe, VE-Day. The section and exhibition end with the start of the long campaign of repatriation of the population of Gibraltar, evacuated in 1940, and a tribute to the fallen Gibraltarians of the Second World War.



**Figure 10: Original VE-Day lapel badge 1945**

A total of three hundred and thirty-three captioned, dated, and numbered Images covering

the period 1933-1945, were displayed.

Historians argue that the First World War did not end in 1918, but was a mere pause, resuming in 1939, with the start of the Second World War. Be that as it may, it was not until 1945, that thankfully, the world conflict finally came to an end. 2020 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of this war.

Gaze at the montage and try to imagine. Listen to the *other*- seven and half decades ago. Retribution, punishment, extermination, segregation, termination, destruction, ruination, vengeance, doom, fear, death, the end. Could something like this ever happen again?

The Victory in Europe commemorative exhibition ended on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020. Against the odds we managed to get the show on the road albeit five months later than it should have been staged. This was only possible because of the titanic efforts of a few exceptional individuals. The Exhibition is now available online at <https://www.nationalarchives.gi/VictoryInEuropeExh.aspx>

June 2021 will see the publication of the 1921 Gibraltar Census comprising about 18,700 records.

No one knows what the future might confront us with. However, I consider myself an optimist and see a bright future post pandemic and Brexit. I take this opportunity to thanks all, for your continued support and add that we are privileged to be given the opportunity to fill the columns of your publication.

**In Defence of the Rock: aspects of security and intelligence in Gibraltar from 1939 to post-colonial times**, by Edward G. Archer (Privately published, 2020, £26.95 (+p&p) from GHT)

*reviewed by Nicholas Rankin*

Dr Edward Archer's new book touches on the Cold War and the Great War on Terror, but it is the Second World War which dominates, not only for its wider spectrum of activities but because Ted Archer of the Intelligence Corps himself served on the Rock after the war, as a member of 54 Field Security Section. He knows the terrain and has gone through the books and archives, as evidenced by his 22 appendices, dozens of illustrations, scores of footnotes.

Dr Archer's bibliography stops at 2015, however, which brings me to a slight embarrassment. My own book, on the same subject, with a very similar title, *Defending the Rock*, came out in 2017 and is not mentioned here. I have no problem with that. I am only sorry if I put Dr Archer's nose out of joint by happening to beat him to the punch. We have never met and I did not know he had begun writing this book in the 1960s, in collaboration with another old member of 54 FSS, now deceased. Nonetheless, although we have both worked from much of the same material and our books overlap, the two volumes complement each other. In the Second World War, you will get more from Rankin on the Tangier bomb incident (a fatal error by the Special Operations Executive which killed five Gibraltarians) and on the accidental death of the Polish General Sikorski in an air-crash, but you will get much more on later events from Archer. For example, he covers the Argentine plot to sink British ships at Gibraltar during the Falklands/Malvinas war of 1982, as well as the killing of the three members of the Provisional IRA by SAS soldiers in March 1988. Archer reminds us that, two years later, the IRA tried to assassinate the man who had been the Governor of Gibraltar at the time of the SAS killing, Air Vice Marshal Sir Peter Terry, by shooting him nine times at his home in England. (He survived the attack, and died in 2017, aged 91.)

From a security point of view, Gibraltar's quandary is its geography. Not being a self-sufficient British island, but a peninsula economically dependent on the Spanish hinterland for labour and services, it has to open its gates every day to thousands of foreign workers who may have hostile agents hidden among them. This was not a problem that, say, wartime Malta ever faced. Archer explains the police and security, censorship and surveillance regimes that the Fortress set up to counter the threats. He is lucky (as I was) to be able to draw on the KV4 files that the Security Service (M.I.5) released to the National Archives at Kew in 2006. A very dull title, *History of the Security Intelligence Department of the Defence Security Office Gibraltar 1939-1945*, conceals a sparkling and witty report by David Scherr who arrived as a sergeant and rose through the commissioned ranks to become head of Gibraltar's security for Queen Elizabeth II's only ever visit to the Rock in May 1954.

Scherr, a member of the Intelligence Corps, was lucky to arrive safely on the Rock with 54 Field Security Service, as an earlier cohort had been torpedoed in August 1940. This book has an unnamed survivor's vivid description of the experience. Archer describes some of the curious tasks of 'field security' which ranged from ferreting, snooping and probing to stand-up lecturing to troops, via office-work, file-keeping, control of all passes, interrogation and searching, plus the valuable permission to dress up in any clothing and pretend to be someone else. Field Security knew all the rackets and had a hand in many.

In 1942, David Scherr became the Security and Intelligence Officer, in charge of a new Security Intelligence Department whose main task was directly countering espionage and sabotage. Scherr took this directly to the enemy by employing a network of informants across the border as well as double agents actually working within the German-financed sabotage gangs. David Scherr was so good at this kind of work that he and his two main helpers, Louis Bush and William Bulman, were eventually recruited by MI5.

As mentioned, one of 54 FSS's tasks was interrogating all new arrivals on the Rock, including uncaptured 'evaders' and 'escapers' who had got out of POW camps. Escape and Evasion was co-ordinated by M.I.9, one of Britain's nine wartime secret services. Archer's chapter on this subject is critical of M.I. 9's man in Gibraltar, Donald Darling, code-named 'Sunday', for claiming rather more credit, in his two books, than he was rightly due.

Archer throws new light on the anti-sabotage submarine work of Lt. Cdr Lionel 'Buster' Crabb through the testimony of one of his unit, Maurice Featherstone, who married a Gibraltar and stayed in Gibraltar, later becoming a government minister. He describes the Italian divers using submersibles through a hole in the hull of the ship *Olterra*, moored in Algeciras, and what a massive intelligence failure their sinking of 14 ships represented. And he tells again the story of the three saboteurs who were hanged by Albert Pierrepont, the Gibraltar José Estelle Key in London and the Spaniards Luís Lopez Cordon Cuenca and José Martín Muñoz at Moorish castle prison in Gibraltar.

One thing that emerges from the Cold War chapters is how hopelessly blinkered Security people can be. Quotes from zealots like Brian Crozier do not help. Communism has not been the threat to the Rock that Fascism has been, yet in ultra-conservative Gibraltar anyone trying to get equal rights or improved pay and conditions has often been treated as a Red-Under-The-Bed subversive. This bugbear goes back many years, as several appendices show. One contains two police reports on the trade unionist Augustine Huart, filed in 1934 and 1935. I doubt if you could find a more passionately loyal and decent Gibraltar, but he is seen by officialdom as a contaminant, while some who boast they are true patriots may well be real traitors. But it was ever thus. Gibraltar has faced many threats and sieges, and weathered many storms in world history. 'Rock Scorpions' are creatures that always have to stay alert to their environment. The book ends: 'A watchful Gibraltar is a safer Gibraltar.'

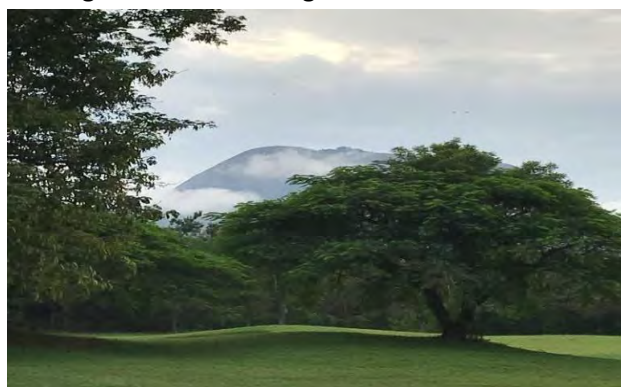
*In Defence of the Rock* is rather a choppy read as a narrative history, but it remains a rich compendium of documents and images from sources that most people have no access to, and that is its value.

## A Friend in Nigeria

by Julian Lyne-Pirkis

The connection between Gibraltar and Nigeria may seem rather tenuous but both are polyglot and anglophile with hot climates and a taste for tradition. I have been working on a British Government programme in Abuja since August 2019 and have come to appreciate a country which has a mixed reputation in Britain but looks on us as a friend. The time I spent working in Gibraltar taught me that while politics can be both complicated and challenging, the individual people one has to deal with are more often than not kind, respectful and generous of spirit. Nigeria is no different though the challenges she faces are far greater than Brexit or the vagaries of the Spanish Government.

Nigeria is the most populous nation in Africa, has the biggest economy but also the highest number of people living in poverty. She has endured an intractable insurgency for over a decade in the North-East driven by Islamic extremists which has displaced thousands and suffers from endemic insecurity in almost every region with the partial exceptions of Abuja and Lagos. The current British Government travel guidance advises against all but essential travel to anywhere in the country. And yet I have been



The IBB International Golf and Country Club Abuja

very happy living and working in a place which is without doubt not a conventional holiday destination. The climate helps. Before I returned for Christmas 2020, I had a month of unadulterated sunshine while my family in Wiltshire endured both heavy rain and onerous pandemic restrictions. Mask wearing is compulsory in Abuja but virus transmission has been relatively low and the restrictions feel less oppressive than at home.

The programme I am working on in partnership with the Nigerian Government is designed to improve their ability to respond to a national crisis with a focus on preparing for a complex terrorist attack in Abuja. This also benefits the extensive diplomatic community and the large numbers of British passport holders who visit Nigeria every year, which before the pandemic was in excess of 100,000. One element of this has been the development of their first National Risk Register. This will allow better planning for a wide variety of risks from floods to economic collapse and to this end, we ran two workshops in February 2020: one produced a draft risk register and the other new guidelines for directors of operations across Government to work together in a Joint Operations Room during a national crisis. This work was put to good use within weeks as the COVID-19 pandemic hit Nigeria and the country went into lockdown.

**Presentation of Certificates at the Risk Register Workshop in February 2020**



But my time has not been all work and I have been able to visit six out of the 36 federal states, play golf on a course whose hazards include live crocodiles, join the Abuja International Choir and, as a freemason, visit lodges and chapters in Abuja and Jos. Everywhere I have met kindness and extraordinary generosity. Nigerians are unfailingly polite and have developed a resilience to life's ups and downs that would put many British people to shame. They are well aware of their country's weak spots yet proud to be Nigerian. It is rare to find a Nigerian who does not have a ready smile, so it is not difficult to come to like them and their country, imperfect as it is. If I have been able to encourage just a few of you to consider this great and challenging country in a kinder light, then I will plunge into 2021 a happy man!

**Dudley Sayers Gowing, Commissioner of Police, Gibraltar, 1933-1953**

*by Tim Gowing*

Although my father retired in 1953 he did not complete his autobiography until 1978. The hand-typed manuscript remained largely forgotten for the next forty years but my nephew Nick Gowing decided to publish this insight into the life of a thoroughly decent and upstanding member of the colonial service, who clearly had a love of adventure and the combustion engine.

In 1921 & 1922 he would accompany his cousin as mechanic in the Benz Company racing car at Brooklands. On one occasion they were in a 150 h.p. Blitzen Benz a terrific car with four cylinders of eight-inch diameter giving an engine capacity of 21,000 cc. In this particular race, they started at scratch and doing quite well until on the second lap at 110 mph the petrol pipe shattered and the engine caught fire. By the time they had come to a halt the car was well alight. They were wearing old Royal Flying Corps helmets and jackets and their hair got burnt round the edges. The next day *The Daily Mirror* had photographs on their front page!

In 1926, stationed in the Gold Coast (now Ghana) with two friends also in government service, all keen motor-cyclists, he made a journey from Kumasi to one of the remotest places on earth, Timbuktu, a return distance of 2000 miles. The journey in temperatures of 120 degrees had taken twenty three days.



Back in Gibraltar my father recalls that in 1934 General Harrington re-introduced the Ceremony of the Keys, very similar to that carried out at the Tower of London.

In 1936 on the first day of the Spanish Civil War, father was called to Four Corners where there was a Spanish Sergeant-major from La Linea who had five officers with him. He had been ordered to slit their throats which he did not wish to do. They were taken into Gibraltar and put up in a hotel and caught the ferry next morning to Algeciras which by then was in the hands of Franco's troops.

In 1941 father was returning to Gibraltar after leave. He embarked on a KLM plane in Wiltshire but was offloaded in Lisbon because the plane was required to return to England with a VIP. This turned out to be Leslie Howard, the well-known actor, but the plane was never seen again and was believed to have been shot down by the Luftwaffe.

On his last day in Gibraltar before retirement, a pleasant surprise was waiting at Four Corners, where not only was a sizeable contingent of police and specials but his opposite number from the Spanish Police, Colonel Molina, together with some of his officers. He produced a posse of four Spanish motor-cycle police to escort them into Spain. After half an hour they all drew into a delightful restaurant where Colonel Molina had laid on drinks and a buffet lunch.

## **OUT AND ABOUT IN GIBRALTAR - A Personal View (as at 03.01.21)**



*Hello Rock Talkers.*

*I'm new to this so let me introduce myself. My name is Brian, a newish FOGy. After many sojourns from the UK in the mid 2000s, I came full-time to wondrous Gibraltar in 2012, married my wife Adina, inherited a daughter Amanda and stayed. Love it here.*

*Also new to journalism, so be kind! Firstly a disclaimer: I have picked my info from numerous sources, so I may be repeating things you already know and I admit to plagiarism in advance.*

*I hate long treatises, disquisitions, dissertations and monographs, so am gonna break things down into easily digestible and hopefully readable chunks:*

### **COVID as 03.01.21**

- 970+ cases. More than TEN times earlier in the year! (inc. Deputy Chief Minister Joseph Garcia earlier in the year).
- Deaths 7.
- GHA struggling to cope.
- Many frontline staff in self isolation
- Exponential rise in cases and 90+ more than yesterday.
- *Full legal lockdown*, with exceptions; shopping etc.
- 22.00hrs curfew, with exceptions: work etc. (Spain 23.00hrs)
- Retail and hospitality sectors closed with exceptions; supermarkets etc.
- Vaccine due on/around 09.01.21.
- Border open with limitations.
- Schools are still on 'holiday'.

### **BREXIT as of 03.01.21**

Proposed treaty to include:

- Gibraltar to be part of the Schengen Area.
- Unrestricted mobility of *people* at the border. *Goods* to still be decided.
- Frontex Agency to manage ingress and egress for FOUR years (not Guardia Civil).

- Gibraltar maintains control of jurisdiction, taxation and sovereignty etc.
- Applies to residents of ALL nationalities.
- Treaty to be signed within six months (hopefully).
- Driving licences, arrivals by air and healthcare to be honoured in Spain until June. 2021.

**NEW PROPERTY DEVELOPMENTS (off-plan as of 03.01.21):**

Counting all the cranes on the horizon from my apartment, there are *at least eight* major developments under construction.



- **Citihome** is building a new 200-bedroom, 10 storey high Aparthotel in Devil's Tower Road, next to Filomena House. Designed with many communal and shared areas.
- **The Reserve** is a very large ultra-luxury development, being built by **Fairhomes** on the site of the old casino near The Rock Hotel. They have sold most of the apartments but sadly (for me at least), they are not replacing the wonderful live music and large dance floor of the old casino. It was a most glamorous place to go and it's gone forever.
- **Marina Club** has started to build small 'rental only' apartments from reclaimed land in Marina Bay. Many boat berths were removed and a new access road built.
- **North Gorge** is a new development in the South District winning a Gibraltar Sustainability Award. It will have 45 low rise energy-efficient townhouses and villas.
- **Sylvian Suites** is a new small development/ refurbishment in Upper Town near the O'Callaghan Elliott Hotel. 38 studios and one bed apartments are planned.
- **The Hub** is a new concept of 143 studios with shared and communal facilities; laundry, TV & games room etc. Located on Devil's Tower Road near Eastern Beach.
- **Buena Vista Park Villas** are ultra-high-end luxury houses in the South District. Some of which are £5,000,000 plus. Probably the most expensive development in Gibraltar.
- **EuroCity** is a high-end development in town, comprising three slender towers, near to St Bernard's Hospital. Second phase underway. Third phase to come.
- **Arengo's Gardens** in the Old Town is available at reasonable (sic) prices, with direct access to the Upper Nature Reserve via the regenerated Arengo's Palace Gardens.
- **Forbes 1848** is in the North District, near the beaches in Devil's Tower Road and the Holiday Inn Express Hotel. It is available at an affordable (sic) level. 73 units in total.
- **The Residence** is in Engineers Lane right in the heart of town, near Main Street. It has 53 units mainly studios and small apartments at a (relatively) affordable price.
- **Two Six Nine Main Street** is a small development/ restoration in classical style, near The Magistrates Court and The Convent. Aimed mainly at local purchasers.
- **E1** is a development near the Eastside Project and is aimed at single people. It offers hotel style accommodation including room service and concierge near Eastern Beach.

- **Kings Wharf, Quay 31.** The latest and tallest development of the Kings Wharf trilogy in Queensway Road. High end apartments opposite Commonwealth Park, near to town.
- **Carlton House** is a small development and renovation in the South District near to St Joseph's School. It will have nine apartments aimed at young families.
- **Bado's Gardens** is a small development/ restoration of just nine apartments on Flat Bastion Road, Upper Town. Some, surprisingly for Upper Town, will have parking.
- **La Maison Rouge** is a small development/ refurbishment of nine apartments on Main Street with many original features such as high ceilings and restored shuttered facade.

**GOVERNOR:** On June 11th 2020 the new Governor of Gibraltar, Vice Admiral Sir David (George) Steel KBE, DL was appointed in succession to Lieutenant General Edward Davis CB CBE who served with great distinction. Sir David has already made a very good impression, even though he still says he is still being called 'new' after more than 6 months. He is the 92nd Governor (inc Acting and Deputy) since John Shrimpton in 1704 following the capture of Gibraltar and the Eleventh Siege. The Governor is the de facto Head of State and the representative of the British Monarch. He formally appoints the Chief Minister and the Government after a General Election and is Commander-in-Chief of Gibraltar's military forces, defence and security.

**TOURISM:** Tourism has been up and down since COVID. Down when COVID first hit, then vastly up when Gibraltar was seen as 'the safest place in the world' and down again now with the big COVID increase. Tourists were mostly English speaking at one level or another. They are mainly, but not always, from the UK, arrive by air and stay for short periods. 1-4 days is the norm unless they have family here. A major tourist concern, often commented upon, is that many of the staff in the shops, bars and restaurants do not understand them when they speak to them in English. Some tourists comment that they are understood better in many parts of Spain than in Gibraltar, a BRITISH Overseas Territory. They often find this to be the most surprising, disconcerting and off-putting aspect of Gibraltar. They have a point!

**AIR QUALITY:** The air quality in Gibraltar is improving, albeit at not a fast enough rate for some. This has been particularly noticeable during the COVID lockdown periods, with many fewer vehicles on the streets. With the naked eye, one can now easily see three countries and two continents from Gibraltar.

**GIBRALTAR PORT:** Cruise Liner visits are extremely low compared to 2019 but bunkering activity is surprisingly high, taking into account the COVID situation, being almost at 2019 levels!

**EXISTING CHARITIES:** Charities are generally having a hard time because of much reduced fundraising activity coupled with a general rise in need. Homeless charity Nazareth House greatly increased their Christmas food parcel activity. Phone-in charities received more calls. Rotary had to reduce almost all fund raising activity, but still donated to many good causes.

**NEW CHARITIES:** Various new charities are thinking of starting in Gibraltar. One group of note is the proposed new charity "Gibraltar Guardians" which is active in the area of *children's* rights upon separation or divorce of their parents. Run by David Gallardo it has already held many successful public demonstrations regarding parental alienation and been featured on GBCs Viewpoint. This has come about because of the rise in parental alienation abuse of children in Gibraltar.

**FAMILY LAW IN GIBRALTAR:** Gibraltar is now in advance of the UK and much of the Western world in two key areas of Family Law.

1. **Prenuptial Marriage Agreements** are now a legally enforceable part of Family Law in Gibraltar but not yet in the UK, where they are taken into consideration but are not yet legally binding.
2. **Parental Alienation Laws** also exist in Gibraltar and are a legally enforceable part of Family Law in Gibraltar but not the UK, where they are still being debated. However

the practicality of enforcement in Gibraltar is being questioned, as the bar appears to have been set very high.

**COMMONWEALTH PARK:** Now extended along Queensway road to the Midtown area, in front of Kings Bastion. Took a surprisingly long time to build but now almost finished. Lovely spot including children's play area.

**AIR TRAVEL:** Helicopter link now established with Malaga Airport. Private jet available from a developer to pick up potential clients thinking of buying in Gibraltar. Put me down for the next flight!

**COMPANIES REGISTRATION:** By 2023 all British Overseas Territories will have to have a publicly accessible register of company owners. Gibraltar established this register in March 2020, ahead of most countries!

**GIBRALTAR AIRPORT:** Flights in and out have varied from pretty good to pretty awful, depending on the Covid situation. Wizz Air, a Hungarian airline, started flying from Luton to Gibraltar to hopefully replace Monarch Airlines which closed some while ago. Regretfully on the second flight they were grounded for a day or so because of a bird strike. Prices start apparently from **£13.99** one way! Lots of talk that the future 'deal' with Spain will allow DIRECT passenger access inbound and outbound, *to and from Spain* WITHOUT having to cross the border. Also that Spain will finally properly signpost Gibraltar Airport and indeed Gibraltar itself as a country.

**TUNNEL:** Lots of talk that this will finally be finished in early 2021. Especially as so much building work has taken place in anticipation of the same. There is a debate, with I believe the MOD, over pedestrian access, which for me would hopefully remain as it is now across the runway, rather than a very long walk or a constant shuttle bus or taxi service. The other hope is that the runway will logically extend at the same time to give a greater safety margin for take off and landings.

**WEDDINGS:** Surprisingly Gibraltar is still attracting lots of Wedding Tourism in between Covid restrictions. Lots and lots of small weddings have taken place, with short stays of between one and four days, with many more larger ones planned for 2021. More wedding planners have set up in Gibraltar. If and when Covid is beaten, I predict much more Wedding Tourism. Remember you heard it here first. A personal thought is that the restrictive practice of licencing venues could be scrapped. If one wants to marry in McDonalds ... why not? I prefer Burger King but that's just personal preference!

**FOOTBALL:** St. Josephs FC (Saints) are top of the Men's National League and Lions Gibraltar FC the Women's. A great year with Gibraltar Men's National Team unbelievably coming **top** of their UEFA Group! Even I watched the last game.

**DANCING:** This is a very personal note as I am a dancing lover. Sadly since March I have had to stop giving my dance classes and curtail my DJ activities. Even the hundreds of Sequence Dancers had to stop. I specialise in teaching Modern Jive in groups and privately, even though I am certainly older than you all. My DJ-ing speciality is 50s and early 60s music. Regretfully since March we have had to go to Spain even more for social dancing and live music. Some of you may have seen my Lockdown Video on social media and GBC in the spring, taking out my frustration by dancing alone with a mirror! As my wife says, one must ..... Keep Dancing!

**SOCIALLY:** Gibraltar is a wondrous place, but one small and not insignificant omission are the entertainment facilities for retired people. Many of my friends and expats who are retired and still have a Silver Pound or two to spend, complain bitterly that there is not enough to 'do' in Gibraltar. They are forced to spend their Silver Pounds in Spain, when they would love to 'keep it local' and spend them here in Gibraltar. In extreme cases they even seek to relocate to Spain, just for the social benefits, the entertainment and things to 'do'.

*So that's it for now. It's goodbye from the three of us who have written this missive ..... me, myself and I. See you all when you are next over here in Gibraltar, **Britain In The Sun**. The best place in the world. Affectionately yours, Brian.*



## Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society

### WEBINAR

### AGM Minutes

24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 11:00

**Present:** - 35 members attended via the webinar

1. **Welcome** - Sir Adrian Johns (SAJ) welcomed everyone to the meeting, our first meeting in such unusual circumstances. Notwithstanding the Covid constraints, the Board has met more frequently than normal with discussions related to Governance, Vision and Mission which will be covered in the Seminar. There will be the opportunity for questions and answers at the end of the AGM. SAJ thanked Peter Hucker (PH) for becoming the FOGHS Webinar wizard and handed over to PH who explained the format and mechanics for the afternoon.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising** – it was assumed that these had been read either in Rock Talk or on the website and given that there were no questions, there were no matters arising.
3. **Reports from the Board** -
  - a. Treasurer's Report - PH stated that a summary of the accounts had been sent out prior to the meeting. The balance is healthy, £3,000 over the March 2019 balance when expenditure for the year had been lower. The loss incurred by the summer party was due to poor attendance, possibly because it was within the holiday period. It is not the FOGHS policy to spend money on events. The current balance stands at just below £42,000.
  - b. Membership - Richard Lord (RL) raised the main points from the circulated report stating that there had been a moderate reduction in membership resulting in a reduction in income – 477 current members. RL would make a more concerted effort to identify the reasons for members leaving. He indicated that there had been an attempt to develop a stronger community spirit – coronavirus had changed much of our lives and during the initial lockdown members who were known to be aged 80 and over were contacted by committee members. The calls were appreciated by each member and resulted in offers to write about their experiences for inclusion in the next edition of Rock Talk. We have fewer younger members, therefore prospective younger members are being offered free membership until the age of 25 to add to the existing offer of 4 for the price of 5. In the spirit of the MoU, members of GHT are being offered a reciprocal arrangement to join FOGHS paying a reduced £10.00 membership fee. A joint press release with the GHT is planned for Nov. There are also plans to reach out to persons who have worked in Gibraltar, those in UK working directly with Gibraltar and those who have a general interest. All of these initiatives require effort. RL stated that he is pleased to do it but does require a sub- group, four of you would help, please. Not all of the initiatives bring revenue, but they do widen our participation, build a more friendly and valued charity, and help build a sounder future.
  - c. Projects – RL – Richard covered the main points in his report stating that this year has been much of a catch up. The Memorandum of Understanding with the GHT is working well, thanks were extended to Claire Montado and Ian Balestrino for their support. He briefly covered the projects: Withams Cemetery; repair work to Trafalgar Cemetery; the new stained glass window in Central Hall; work with the Garrison Library and the grants to the University and Schools. Offers have been received from members to help with the projects, Len Goss has volunteered to join, with Jerry Robinson and JLP supporting. RL will step down from the Lead Role and

transfer it to Len by 1 Apr 21. Our portfolio of projects for next year is in an embryonic stage and ideas are always welcomed. Please provide ideas for the group to consider.

SAJ thanked PH and RL for their reports and commitment and for the extensive list of projects and introduced Jennifer Scherr (JS).

- d. Communications – JS reported that she had been requested, as the new editor of Rock Talk, to review communication within FOGHS and externally. At present Rock Talk is deposited in the British Library, which is a legal requirement in the UK. A request had been received about sending copies to the other five deposit libraries, this is not an entitlement, but the possibility will be considered. There was also a question about the size of the run, this was 700 copies; the printing and despatch cost was £2,440 for last year. Costs are reviewed regularly and Vincent Mifsud, the previous editor, has confirmed that this is good value overall.

Website – thanks were extended to John Borda for his work on the website. Ideas for increasing the information on the website will be addressed in the forthcoming months, and possible redesign such as front-facing for the public as well as more restricted membership pages.

JS then invited members (and family and friends) to send in Gibraltar related short stories for inclusion in the Newsletters and longer stories for inclusion in Rock Talk.

We want to engage all our membership in the process of sharing news and information.

SAJ thanked JS for her report and work to date.

4. **Questions from members** – PH had received a question relating to reserves held by the Society – these stand a £26,000 held in one account. This doesn't need to be altered at this time but will be addressed when necessary.
5. **AOB** – SAJ made a plea for other members who are able and willing to help Board Members with the tasks above. This would be very much appreciated. This plea prompted immediate responses with offers of help from Neil Norfolk and Tori Robinson. These offers were very much appreciated by the Board as was the earlier offer from John Griffiths which is currently progressing.

SAJ concluded AOB by saying that his main concern is the membership, which though steady, needs to expand and be more diverse.

**Date of Next Meeting** – this will be October/November 2021. It will be a hybrid event with attendees in person and others via a webinar.

SAJ thanked everyone very much for attending. He declared the meeting closed at 11.30. stating that there would be a 15 minute break and asked all present, to please remain logged in but muted and return for the Seminar starting at 11.45.

TJ 24.10.20

## FOGHS Accounts

Balances at bank	31 March 2020 £	31 March 2019 £
<i>Scottish Widows Deposit</i>	26,158	26,104
<i>Lloyds General Current Accounts</i>	14,122	12,786
<i>Cash in hand and stock of ties</i>	2,056	295

	<b>42,336</b>	<b>39,185</b>
Current Liabilities	1,000	1,000
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>41,336</b>	<b>38,185</b>

### Operation of the Society

**Net Income** including Subscriptions, Donations and Gift aid **8,046** **8,495**

**Net Expenditure** (before Charitable activities) **2,921** **2,251**  
including Rock Talk and Sundry expenses

### Charitable activities

Oral History Project	-	800
University Bursary	1,000	1,000
Schools Awards (including plaque)	564	545
Witham's Cemetery	-	10,000
Other charitable donations	410	55
	<b>1,974</b>	<b>12,400</b>

**Surplus / (Deficit) for the year** **3,151** **(6,157)**

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## MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

THE FRIENDS OF GIBRALTAR

To: **The Membership Secretary, The Friends of Gibraltar**  
**c/o Gibraltar House, 150 Strand, London WC2R 1JA**

From: (Please see Note 1 below):.....

Telephone:..... E-mail: .....

Address:.....

.....Postcode: .....

If under 25 please include date of birth: .....

### 1. General Data Protection Act

The information you provide on this form will only be used under the terms of Friends of Gibraltar Privacy Policy. I wish to opt in and receive communications from the Friends.

Signature: ..... Date: .....

### 2. Gift Aid Declaration – for past, present & future donations.

Please treat as Gift Aid donations all qualifying gifts of money made today, in the past 4 years and in the future to the Friends of Gibraltar. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give.

Title: ..... First name: ..... Surname: .....

Address: .....

.....Postcode: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Please notify the Membership Secretary if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

### 1. Standing Order Name and address of your Bank. (Not required if under 25 or over 80)

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:.....

Please pay Lloyds, 147 High Street, Guildford. GU1 3AG (sorting code 30-93-74) for: the Credit of the Friends of Gibraltar Heritage Society (account no.00310844) the sum of £15 (fifteen pounds) immediately and thereafter on each 6 April until further notice from me and debit my account accordingly. Account to be debited:

A/C Name: ..... Sort Code: ..... A/C No: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Note 1: For a couple, the Annual Subscription is £30. Please complete two forms



Many serving in our Armed Forces have served in Gibraltar and have called the Rock home. As some transition out of the services or as their journey in civilian life becomes overwhelming, they call upon the support of Alabare's Homes for Veterans to help provide them with the skills, confidence and opportunities to live fulfilling lives once more.

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## ***APPEAL FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS***

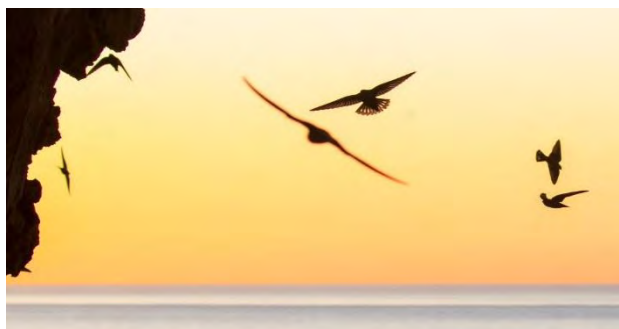
*The Society would welcome additional volunteers from the membership to assist with the organization of events, with the administration of the Society, and in any other way that might be appropriate.*

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

### **Front and back covers :**

Crag martins (*Pytoprogne rupestris*) flying from their roost at Vanguard Cave, Gibraltar, at sunrise; with thanks to *Dr Keith Bensusan*, University of Gibraltar. November 2020 saw an unprecedented increase in the winter roost of crag martins at the Gorham Cave complex (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), with over 5,700 birds counted.

*Tyson Holmes*, FOGHS postgraduate bursary winner, spoke to the Society in October 2020 on 'Behavioural Ecology of Avian Aerial Insectivores in Gibraltar: a PhD thesis in progress'.



VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS ISSUE  
ARE PERSONAL AND DO NOT  
REFLECT THE VIEWS OF THE  
SOCIETY OR THE EDITOR

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