



ROCK TALK

Issue No4

April 2010

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Editorial

Thank you for joining us again for issue 4 of *Rock Talk*. This time we are particularly pleased to include pieces of writing by some Friends, for it's encouraging when Friends contact us to give us feedback on our magazine, and we are delighted to receive articles or letters for publication.

So please do let us know if you have anything to say, or information that will be of interest to other members. In particular we shall be glad to publish further pages of reminiscences like the one on page 15. We shall be equally glad to air your views on up-to-date developments too. Space permitting, of course.

For the result of our logo search competition, please see page 5. And we also have a winner of the competition in our last editorial. The champagne kindly donated by Albert Poggio was won by Herky Daldas, whose entry Hilary Wines drew out of the hat. Many thanks to all who entered.

As our Chairman announced at the annual

meeting and reception in February, we plan that the next issue of *Rock Talk* will be electronic, posted on our new website: <http://friendsofgibraltar.org.uk>. To tell you when it is published, we shall e-mail all those of you whose addresses we know. The Editors would therefore urge you to respond to the Society's appeal for e-addresses, also on page 5.

Eventually the Friends hope to be able take bookings and payments for events electronically from our website. Many societies already do this. If our small charity is a bit slow to catch up, you will understand that our administration runs on a modest scale.

Needless to say we shall not neglect members with no internet connection or no e-mail, though life will be simpler if as we believe they are very few. Write to tell the Editors at Gibraltar House, 150 Strand, London, WC2R 1JA, or telephone 020 8693 1145, to say that you have no e-mail, and we will make you a paper copy of the next issue. But please read the electronic version if you can.

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The front cover photograph of an RAF Tornado, printed by permission of HQ British Forces Gibraltar, is by Corporal Ralph Merry, Command Photographer, who in 2008 was presented by the Chief of the Air Staff with an award as RAF Photographer of the Year.

Chairman's Letter

Dear Friends of Gibraltar,

Since the last issue of *Rock Talk* was published, the Society has held its annual weekend seminar and dinner. This was done for the first time at Winchester, both because that seems to be more convenient for many members and because we thought members who attend regularly had probably by now exhausted most of the attractions of Warwick and its neighbourhood, and might enjoy a change of scene. The choice proved a happy and popular one; a record number of members came, including our President Baroness Hooper. Mario Mosquera, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust's new chairman, and the Trust's Chief Executive Claire Montado, spoke and also joined the Friends' committee members for a useful business meeting. Richard Garcia, the Government Chief Secretary and Gibraltar polymath, was our third guest speaker; having been lucky enough to be guided by him round some of the less known antiquities of Gibraltar I knew he would delight his audience and indeed he did. With its cathedral, its college and other ancient buildings and three different regimental museums (including my own) the city had plenty to offer members who stayed on until the Sunday. We shall be returning there in October this year, and I hope to see even more of you there then.

We then held our annual meeting of members in February, as usual, in London. Our President Baroness Hooper again joined us, and fifty members enjoyed a very good party arranged in fine style by Albert Poggio and Ernest Reading.

Members who have already booked for this year's annual visit to the Rock can look forward to the traditional excellent programme of good company and interesting local visits. If you have not yet booked and would like to go, please book as soon as you can. Another date for your diaries this summer is the Society's annual luncheon, on 22 June.



During the winter your executive committee have been working on our new website. This is meant for members, but we hope it may also attract internet surfers who have an interest in Gibraltar and may decide to join us. If you look it up you will see that a lot of material about the Friends is already there, including our current Diary of Events and a membership application form. But you will also see that we are still working on some of the pages. So suggestions for making it more helpful to members, or more attractive to non-members, will be most welcome. Our webmasters are John Borda and Vincent Mifsud.

One of our younger members, James Ballantine, has plans for bringing into the Society a larger number of people of his own age group, starting with a social event in London for young and youngish Gibraltarians and their friends. I very much welcome this initiative and hope it will develop well. If existing members have family or friends who might be interested in younger members' events, I hope they will contact James at: jballantine101@yahoo.com

With best wishes to you, and my thanks for your support for our Society and for Gibraltar.

Francis Richards

Diary of Events for 2009

Meeting with Lieutenant Colonel John Perez, MBE

At Gibraltar House, 150 Strand, London, WC2R 1JA. Lieutenant Colonel Perez, who will speak and answer questions, served in the Army for twenty-five years. For the last four, until January 2010, he was Commanding Officer of the Royal Gibraltar Regiment.

The date of this meeting had not been confirmed when *Rock Talk* went to press, but will be announced on our website <http://www.friendsofgibraltar.org.uk> and will also be notified by e-mail to members for whom we have e-mail addresses. Members will be very welcome to bring family and friends. The minimum charge, including refreshments after the meeting, will be £8 per head; any donations in addition will be most gratefully received.

Sunday 6 to Sunday 13 June 2010 **The Friends' Annual Visit to Gibraltar**

Bookings should now be made without delay with Jenna Kerins at Cadogan Holidays, Southampton, telephone 023 8082 8417. She can book BA Heathrow flights, or Easyjet Gatwick ones. The main party will stay at the Rock Hotel. The programme of local visits being arranged by the Gibraltar Heritage Trust is planned to include:

- A tour by boat to Gorham's Cave, the Neanderthal habitation, with Professor Clive Finlayson (2 hours).
- The Second World War tunnels in the Upper Rock between Hay's Level and Princess Caroline's Battery.
- A visit to the Phoenician and Roman archaeological site at Carteia, with lunch, on Saturday 12 June.

We hope members of our party may receive invitations to The Queen's Birthday Parade and to The Governor's Garden Party at the Convent, both on 9 June; but if so any additional numbers are now very limited.

A report of the 2009 visit to Gibraltar can be found on page 7 of the July 2009 issue of *Rock Talk*.

Tuesday 22 June 2010

Visit to Apsley House (11.30am) and Annual Luncheon (1.00pm)

Apsley House, at Hyde Park Corner, the house of the Duke of Wellington, is one of London's finest Georgian buildings. A tour will be conducted by Dr Susan Jenkins, until recently Curator of Apsley House. The Annual Luncheon will be held nearby, at El Pirata Restaurant, 5 Down Street.

The cost is £39 per person, or £36 for the Luncheon only. Bookings please to Richard Wells, 7 Tollgate Drive, London SE21 7LS, enclosing cheques payable to: *The Friends of Gibraltar*.

The Apsley House tour is limited to 30 people, but there is room for many more at the Luncheon. Those who book for the tour must therefore please say whether, if they cannot get places for it, they still want to attend the Luncheon. Redundant £39 cheques will be destroyed; any necessary £3 refunds will be paid in cash on the day.

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 October 2010 **Annual Seminar and Dinner**

At the Winchester Royal Hotel, St. Peter Street, Winchester, beginning at 1.00pm on 16 October.

Bookings must be made on the booking form, which can be downloaded and printed from our website at:

<http://friendsofgibraltar.org.uk/page.php?id=5> or obtained from Janet Whiteley (telephone 078 6498 3290 or 078 0194 8036). One seminar speaker will be Jennifer Scherr (Bristol, a member of the Society), on "*Nosey Parker Roaming Round Gib: David Scherr and the Defence Security Office during the Second World War*".

Other speakers will be announced on the website nearer the time.

Details of the hotel rates (unchanged from last year) and of the timetable are on the booking form. Enquiries relating to the hotel may be made to Lisa Death there (telephone 019 6285 9750).

Appeal for e-mail addresses! _____

Rock Talk will always carry a full Diary of Events, but a number of members have asked to be notified of Society events by e-mail as well. This will have the advantage of bringing you earlier news of meetings.

We have the e-mail addresses of many members, but very far from all. We recently sent a test message to the addresses we do know. If you did not get this, do please let us know your address by sending us an e-mail as follows:

**To “Membership Secretary, The Friends of Gibraltar”
*richard.lord2@btinternet.com***

**Add my e-mail address to The Friends’ circulation list for
notices of forthcoming meetings and any other urgent news.**

We promise that we shall not trouble you with e-mails often. Our messages will be sent as blind copies, so that members will not learn each others’ addresses. And of course we shall not give your address to anyone outside Friends and *Rock Talk* administration.

Please visit the Friends’ new website!

<http://friendsofgibraltar.org.uk>

Logo search

Our competition for a new logo for the Friends has been won by Mr Emlyn Stephenson, whose winning design is shown here.

It also now appears on the Friends’ new website:

<http://friendsofgibraltar.org.uk>
and in our letter-heading.

Mr Stephenson has generously donated his £30 prize to the Friends. *Rock Talk* sends him our many thanks for this and for his trouble, and our congratulations on his success.



The Sally Port Tunnel

*by Claire Montado, Chief Executive,
Gibraltar Heritage Trust*

On 31 January, the Buildings and Fortifications Working Group of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust completed the latest phase in one of their hands-on projects, with the re-opening of the entrance to the Sally Port Tunnel. The Sally Port entrance visible below the Land Port drawbridge had been neglected for many years and the tunnel had seen a large amount of rubbish accumulate along its length. In October of last year the group cleared out the accumulated rubbish and rubble, which as we were able to date had been accumulating since 1989! Three van loads of rubbish and a skip of rubble later the Trust was able to make plans for phase II of the project, which was to recover the upper end opening of the tunnel which was within Landport Tunnel itself. The ultimate aim of the project was to recover the tunnel, which had been blocked up for years. Pedestrian access through the tunnel is not possible; however people can now see both ends, and the addition of an information panel in the near future will allow them to appreciate the importance of this tunnel in the defence of Gibraltar.

What is a "Sally Port"? They were a feature of castles and fortresses, a closely guarded opening or door in the wall of a fortified building (or in this case defensive wall) designed for the quick

passage of troops. One of their primary uses was to mount quick attacks on whatever enemy might be besieging the castle. "Sally" comes from the Latin "salire" meaning "to jump", and was originally a sudden rush out of a besieged position, a lightning attack designed to surprise the enemy.

The Sally Port Tunnel forms an S-shape, sloping down from south to north. This design would both facilitate exit from the Fortress, and impede intrusion. The small size of the Sally Port would require a charging enemy to slow and duck to enter the tunnel – a horse would not fit through this opening. Once inside, the enemy would be further slowed by the slope and by the S-shape, which moreover would make it impossible for them to fire a gun straight up the tunnel. Adding further to the defensive strength of the tunnel are two overhead wells. The function of these were again two-fold, letting light into the tunnel but also doubling up as "murder holes" down which projectiles and other materials could be thrown onto any advancing enemies.

It was through this Sally Port that the Garrison of Gibraltar left the Fortress under cover of darkness on the night of the Great Sortie, 27 November 1781. As the moon was setting, the troops marched through the Landport Tunnel and down the Sally Port Tunnel, mustering under the cover of the Landport Ditch before setting off in silent darkness across the isthmus to pull a surprise assault on the Spanish Lines, spiking the cannon and destroying the ammunition magazines. The success of the assault did much to raise the morale of the besieged Garrison.



A Dirty Job



The Sally Port

Gibraltar Heritage Painting Competition

Since 1991 the Gibraltar Heritage Trust has arranged an annual painting competition, always on a heritage theme. The July 2009 issue of *Rock Talk* carried an article by Claire Montado (Claire Valarino before her marriage) on last year's competition, which was for paintings of the Dockyard.

The theme of the 2010 competition, to be held on 15 May, is Europa Point, now being refurbished. <http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/images/stories/PDF/pressoffice/pressreleases/2010/29-2010.pdf> gives a description of the work being done there – not before time, some people think.

As advancing education and interest in the heritage of Gibraltar is one of the Society's charitable objects, the Friends of Gibraltar are glad to be able to send the Trust £400 which will finance the prizes in the Children's and Junior sections of this year's competition.

Gibraltar Heritage Trust Newsletters

Friends of Gibraltar will be interested in the Trust's newsletters, which, after first being issued to members of the Trust, are subsequently published on: <http://www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi/newsletters.htm>

Gibraltar Heritage Journal No. 16

This year's *Heritage Journal* offers a thematically diverse collection of articles, a number of which look back at the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to deal with aspects of Gibraltar's military reality and the convergence of this with the lives of those civilian inhabitants on the Rock. As a number of these articles demonstrate, both military and civilian histories are inextricably connected and together they form an integral part of Gibraltar's social history.

Heritage Journal No. 16 is once again sponsored by Gibtelecom and is available now priced at £3 for members of the Gibraltar Heritage Trust or £5 for non-members of the Trust. Please contact the Trust office for postage prices. More details on the *Journal* can be found at www.gibraltarheritagetrust.org.gi

Gibraltar Heritage Trust Calendar 2010

This year's calendar features a selection of then and now images of early twentieth century Gibraltar. As is customary, brief historical notes accompany each image. The calendar continues in its usual A4 size and comes with its own envelope. It is priced at £4 for Trust members and £5 for non-members. Please contact the Trust office for postage prices.



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Wings Around Gibraltar

Squadron Leader Jon Mays, RAF (retired), and Dr Ted Archer are the authors of a new book about the history of aviation in Gibraltar. Dr Jennifer Ballantine Perera writes:

We only have to read the first few chapters of Jon Mays and Ted Archer's new publication to determine that the history of the airfield in Gibraltar is one of the politics of space: both territorial claims, and at times the urgent demands for more land upon which to develop and spread. This is therefore a book about Gibraltar's history as much as it is one that traces the development of aviation from its infancy to the establishment of the RAF on the Rock. *Wings Around Gibraltar* will attract a wide readership, given its thematic and historical scope. One of the co-authors, Jon Mays, who was stationed at RAF Gibraltar, is technically well equipped to assess the material brought together in this book. Ted Archer, on the other hand, brings more of a socio-political perspective to this publication, which is well rounded and very readable.

Their account is driven by a historical chronology starting in the late nineteenth century with the first civilian balloon flight from Gibraltar, on 7 December 1889. We learn of the short-lived military balloon base at Windmill Hill in the first decades of the twentieth century, the founding of the Royal Air Force in 1918, and the establishment of an air base in Gibraltar. We also see the shift from the use of flying boats or amphibious aircraft, housed in a hangar at Gun Wharf, to increasing dependence on land-based aeroplanes and the need for a permanent landing strip. Many of these changes were driven by military expediency geared towards meeting the challenge of both World Wars. And herein lies an area of major interest in this book, the first half of which focuses on the construction of the airfield and the role played by RAF North Front, as it was known at the time, during the Second World War.

The historical backdrop to the expansion of the airfield is a fascinating read, not least because these events contextualise Gibraltar within global events, but also because they underpin the diplomatic considerations of the time, which reverberate to this very day. The authors tap into material derived from the National Archives and other sources for their discussion on the eventual use of the Gibraltar end of the neutral ground for a permanent landing strip. The area had been in use for this purpose since the Great War, but arrangements had been of a more temporary nature, yet the need for a permanent airfield became

an increasing necessity given the expansion of the RAF and the use of aeroplanes by the Royal Navy. However, as Mays and Archer discuss, the use of the neutral ground for a fixed military installation was met with diplomatic caution given the complicated territorial claim. It was not until 1941 that construction of a fully fledged airfield on the neutral ground commenced.

Readers are provided with detailed aerial photographs outlining the different stages of construction, in which we see the Jockey Club racecourse slowly disappear whilst reclamation efforts gradually give shape to the western extension of the landing strip. Once fully operational, the airfield mobilised to meet the demands of the war. The authors capture these years very well; they use sources such as the RAF North Front Station Diary, reports written by Flight Lieutenant B. Flannery, and the handwritten note-book of Warrant Officer McNee on the assembly of aircraft for Operation Torch which they reproduce in its original form.

Subsequent chapters deal with the post-war years. There are some excellent sections such as the assessment of the impact of the 1993 Review on the RAF in Gibraltar and the knock-on effect this was to have on the airfield. The rationalisation of the MoD presence in Gibraltar is outlined here in very accessible language. I also note, with some sadness given my research interests in the Calpe Hunt, that the economics of the time led to the demolition of the RAF church of St. Michael's, the building which, as Mays and Archer point out, was once used as the weighing room for the jockeys of the Gibraltar Jockey Club who raced on the ground now occupied by the airfield. It is clear that the fate of the airfield is closely related to wider events and this comes to the fore in the section on the airport and civil aviation.

The 1993 Review paved the way for an increasingly civilian run airport but this very fact also highlights the importance of the airport for Gibraltar and the tensions that arise from the commercial use of what is essentially a RAF airfield. Running alongside are the geo-political realities that press upon territorial claims. Mays and Archer tease this subtlety whilst also outlining the Brussels and 1987 Airport Agreements, the Cordoba Agreements and the impact of these on the airport's fortunes.

There is much of value in this book. *Wings Around Gibraltar* captures the historical events upon which the narrative is anchored whilst also dealing with present challenges. The book, which is on sale in Gibraltar bookshops, is an important document of our times and well worth a read. Signed copies can also be obtained by contacting Jon Mays by e-mail at: amaysing2009@hotmail.com

The Second World in Gibraltar

by **Richard Wells**

4 July 1943 was one of the saddest days in the proud, but tragic, story of Poland's war. An hour before midnight, the Liberator bomber in which General Władysław Sikorski was to have flown to England took off from the Rock's newly constructed airstrip – but plunged into the Mediterranean off Eastern Beach. His body was recovered from the sea. The British inquiry was unable to determine the cause of the accident.

Sikorski's death came at a time of high tension between the Polish government and the USSR. He suspected, correctly, that it was the Russians, not the Germans, who had gruesomely massacred more than 20,000 Poles, mostly officers, at Katyn. Stalin, for his part, was already preparing to instal a communist regime in Poland after the war. This background has fed persistent suspicions that the General's aircraft was sabotaged: either by the Russians, or by the British in the interest of the Anglo-Soviet alliance. A sabotage conspiracy makes a more interesting story than a simple accident, and now not only a German playwright (Rolf Hochhuth, in 1967) but also two Polish film-makers, in 1983 and 2009, have given currency to the sabotage theory.

Katastrofa w Gibraltarze ("Disaster at Gibraltar") was made while Poland was still under communist control, so it is not surprising that, like Hochhuth's *Soldaten*, it made Churchill the villain of the piece. In 2008, to test the allegation that the general was murdered in Gibraltar and his body loaded onto his aircraft together with explosives to bring it down, Sikorski's body, which in 1993 had been reinterred in Poland, was exhumed and autopsied. In January 2009 the Polish investigators concluded that there was no evidence for this theory.

But meanwhile a second Polish film, *General. Zamach na Gibraltarze* ("The General: the Gibraltar Assassination") had been shot. Released in April 2009, it alleged that Sikorski was murdered, in the Convent, by Poles of the Piłsudski faction, anti-communist but in British pay; they had been infiltrated into Gibraltar through France and Spain. The general was said to be carrying documents about the Katyn massacre, given him by German agents in Cairo, which it was essential for the British to secure. The chief villain here is Governor Mason-Macfarlane, played by Jerzy Grałek. He both looks and behaves more like a Soviet general than a British one.

Many readers of *Rock Talk* will have seen at the Queen's Cinema one or other of the two British war

films set in Gibraltar. They are now both over fifty years old. The first was *The Silent Enemy*, released in 1958, and portrayed the Gibraltar exploits of the frogman Commander Lionel ("Buster") Crabb, G.M. This film includes a sequence on Sikorski's plane, for Crabb dived to the wreck. His main work, however, was in the defence against the manned torpedos which the Italian navy, daringly but with little success, launched against British ships at Gibraltar. Crabb was played by Laurence Harvey, probably best remembered for his success the following year, with Simone Signoret, in *Room at the Top*. The film was enlivened and embellished by Sidney James as a Cockney chief petty officer and Dawn Addams as the admiral's secretary, and excitement was added by a fictitious attack on the Italian depot ship, moored in the port of Algeciras. Both the diver and the actor, Crabb and Harvey, came to die in their mid-forties. The former, famously, lost his life in 1956, at Portsmouth.

The Gibraltar war film least embroidered with fiction, in a sense, is perhaps *I Was Monty's Double*. To divert the enemy's attention from Normandy before D-Day, on 25 May 1944 an obscure actor and wartime Pay Corps lieutenant named M. E. Clifton James, who looked strikingly like General Montgomery (though the resemblance stopped there, for he was a modest and nervous man), was sent to Gibraltar and North Africa to impersonate Monty. In the 1959 film Clifton James played himself, and re-enacted the adventure with the help of John Mills, in the part of an Army Intelligence major. A sly Spaniard observes "Monty" arriving at RAF North Front. A large crowd sees him greeted at the Convent by General "Rusty" Eastwood, who has succeeded Mason-Mac as Governor. Eastwood invites a smooth Swede to meet him at dinner. His presence in Gibraltar is duly reported to Berlin, so that later a (fictitious) attempt is made to kidnap him from Africa into a U-boat. A film similar in theme and period was *The Man Who Never Was*, the story of Operation Mincemeat; but that is set in Huelva.

The cinema adaptation of Paul Gallico's novel *Scruffy*, set in Gibraltar in 1943, has however yet to be made. In this almost entirely almost fictional story, the RAF hilariously fail to fly in a reinforcement from Morocco, and so Scruffy and his pregnant mate are the last surviving apes on the Rock. In view of the Imperial necessity of a safe delivery, the most fashionable obstetrician in London is ordered down to Gibraltar, but he soon makes a fool of himself. An unprecedented pair of twins are brought into the world only by the skilful pressure of the practised thumbs of Sergeant Lovejoy, Royal Artillery, Keeper of the Apes. This, surely, is the picture that would really have had us rolling in the aisles of the Queen's Cinema.



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Vice Admiral Sir Adrian Johns, KCB CBE

...arrived in Gibraltar on HMS *Lancaster* as the Rock's new Governor and Commander-in-Chief, succeeding Sir Robert Fulton, on 26 October last year. He was welcomed by the Acting Governor, Lesley Pallett, and by the Chief Minister. The Royal Gibraltar Regiment fired a seventeen-gun salute at the welcome ceremony at the Tower. After formal introductions, he left for Parliament, where the Swearing-In Ceremony was performed.

Sir Adrian had until recently been Second Sea Lord. He was born in 1951 and brought up in Cornwall. It was always his ambition to be a sailor. He entered the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in 1973 after studying physics at Imperial College London – the start of a naval career lasting 35 years. His first posting was as a submariner, and he then became a minesweeper navigator, before deciding to join the Fleet Air Arm to become a helicopter pilot. Posted back to Cornwall, he flew Sea King helicopters and served in HMS *Ark Royal* before instructing trainee pilots. It was in Cornwall that he met and married his wife Susan; they now have four adult children, a son and three daughters.

After a tour in Hong Kong he returned to Britain and was promoted Lieutenant Commander, in which rank he continued to fly helicopters, and was Flight Commander of HMS *Brilliant*, the flagship for the NATO squadron. Returning to sea, he was promoted Commander, during which time his ship made a round-the-world trip, starting in Gibraltar. Appointments as Training Commander and in the Ministry of Defence followed, as did promotion to Captain in 1994 and a stint in charge of the Royal Navy Presentation Team, which tours the UK to explain the work of the Navy to the public. After a spell back at the Ministry at a time of operations in Iraq, Sierra Leone and the former Yugoslavia, he returned to sea, commanding HMS *Ocean* during the Second Iraqi War.

In 2003 Sir Adrian was promoted Rear Admiral and served as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff and also Rear Admiral Fleet Air Arm. In 2005 he became Vice Admiral, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, with HMS *Victory* as his flagship. He retired from the Royal Navy in 2008 and says he is highly privileged and delighted to have been appointed Governor of Gibraltar. We wish His Excellency and Lady Johns every happiness and success.



The Hindu Temple of Gibraltar



Going down Main Street from Casemates, if visitors passing Engineer Lane on the left happen to look up, they will notice an imposing building a little way up the hill. Closer investigation will show that it is the Hindu Temple of Gibraltar. But who are Gibraltar's Hindu community, and what part does the temple play in daily life?

The Rock has a long connection with the Indian sub-continent. Originally merchants from India came sailing round the Cape of Good Hope. After the Suez canal was opened in 1869, the route was much shorter, so many more traders came, and as trade built up, managers spent longer in Gibraltar. But the first Hindu families, about 25, really only came to settle permanently in the 1930s. The bigger influx came after the partition of India in 1947. Hindu Sindis came to Gibraltar, not only because of the existing links, but also because it was a Mediterranean nation with the strong British influence they were accustomed to and felt at home with. Today the Hindu community numbers about 500, and plays a full and important part in the commercial and cultural life of the Rock. In 2004 Gibraltar's House of Assembly elected its first Hindu speaker, Haresh Budhrani, and the current chairman of the Rotary Club of Gibraltar is also a Hindu, Raju Alwani.

For many years the Hindus met for worship in each others' homes. As the size of the community grew, they felt the need to have a place for their religious worship. Money was raised for the construction of the Temple and the land donated by the Gibraltar Government, and in 1993 the first celebration of the Diwali festival was held on the site. The Temple was completed and consecrated

in 1999, and it was officially inaugurated the following year by the Governor, Sir Richard Luce as he then was.

The building is the centre of the community's religious and cultural life. It is used not only for worship, but for study – classes are held dealing with Hindu culture and the study of the scriptures, for both adults and children. The community is outward looking and very much involved with the general life of Gibraltar and its people – in fact, the temple constitution includes the following clauses: "To promote a Hindu social and cultural understanding as well as an inter-religious understanding in Gibraltar ... To carry out any humanitarian work or assist with any humanitarian movements ... To participate in charitable causes and make donations to charities or towards any charitable or humanitarian causes".

The Gibraltar temple, while having a strong Sindi influence, is independent and not affiliated to any particular branch of Hinduism. And visitors, from all faiths and none, are very welcome. The new Governor, Sir Adrian Johns, has already made his first visit, and schools and organisations, local and from Spain, often have conducted tours. There is a daily prayer service at 7.30 p.m., but visitors are also welcome at other times. Because the temple has no permanent priest, anyone wanting to visit should email or telephone to see that the building will be open and someone is there to greet them and show them round if wished. Please write to: **Gibraltar Hindu Temple, P.O. Box 1235, Gibraltar** or e-mail: **gibraltarihindutemple@hotmail.com** or telephone: **(00350) 200 42515** they will be very happy to help.

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Miss Gibraltar, Miss World! _____

In December, Miss Gibraltar, Kaiane Aldorino, won the Miss World competition in Johannesburg. Second was Miss Mexico and third the home team representative, Miss South Africa. Kaiane reached the semi-finals by winning the 'Miss Beach Beauty' part of the contest – the first time that a Miss Gibraltar had got so far.



Kaiane is 23 and works as a Human Resources clerk at St Bernard's Hospital. One of her hobbies is dancing. She was in the 2008 Gibraltar National Dance Team, which competed internationally.

On 18 December, following her win, she was flown back to Gibraltar in a private jet and was mobbed as she paraded along Main Street in an open-topped car; nearly all the population came out to congratulate her. Kaiane also presented prizes to the winners of this year's Three Kings Cavalcade. She probably won't have much time at home this year, though – she has already visited Korea and Japan and will spend the year travelling the world, fundraising for charity. This is a great win for Gibraltar and we add our congratulations and good wishes to those of everyone on the Rock.

Our third picture shows the new Miss England, Lance Corporal Katrina Hodge. The uniform is entirely genuine, but *Rock Talk* has not heard that she has yet been on exercise in Gibraltar.



Long Jumper on the Rock

by Roy Cruttenden

I served in Gibraltar from 1958-1962 and from 1966-1969 as a civil engineer employed by the Admiralty. In my first tour I was principally engaged in the construction of the Admiralty fuel depot in the north face of the Rock at the Kings Lines. In my second tour I was concerned with undertaking the tunnelling work for the COMCEN, and latterly with the construction of the ammunition jetty immediately below and to the east of the Mediterranean Steps. In those days Admiralty engineers were trained naval divers and I used my diving skills to good effect when checking the foundations of the ammunition jetty. Three years ago I was pleased to be able to inspect my work, although perhaps saddened to learn that the COMCEN was about to be decommissioned and the jetty was decomposing. At least the Kings Lines continue to be in good working order.

Being both a civilian and an Admiralty engineer gave me an interesting perspective on the vibrant Service life in the Gibraltar garrison. I had completed my war time service as a young captain with 577 Field Company Royal Engineers. Immediately before coming to Gibraltar I had passed the Naval staff college course at Greenwich. Thus PSC (Passed Staff College) was engraved on my reports – I was eligible for a rising naval career.

However, one of my first actions when coming to Gibraltar was to build a long jump pit. I had competed in the 1956 Olympics as a finalist and I was scheduled to compete in the Commonwealth games in July 1958, the last competition in my international career. But prematurely the *News Chronicle* announced my posting to be effective from September 1957 – however this was delayed until April 1958. I built the long jump pit, with the assistance of a number of Spanish dockyard workers at the Naval Officers' Pavilion (NOP), which was then situated to the West of the US memorial and close to HMS *Rooke*.

My late wife, Phyllis, was a physical training teacher and she spent a great deal of time coaching Wrens hockey – there was a field at the NOP – as well as competing as a finalist in various tennis tournaments.

In 1958 my sons Timothy and Richard were respectively aged 3 and 1. They undertook their initial schooling attending variously Mrs Prosser's Brimpton Kindergarten, Mrs Djobulez's which was just below South Barracks, the Convent and latterly for Timothy, the Christian Brothers. In those days the education system in Gibraltar appeared to be very concerned with teaching Latin, perhaps because many of the Catholic services were conducted in Latin.

Rosia Bay was a thriving swimming area with the Services club on the mole itself, and the Dock Yard club

immediately below the Western bastion walls. It was during my second tour that the military headquarters overlooking the bay was constructed. It is a shame that, today, Rosia Bay is derelict and a far cry from the vibrant place it was in the 1960s.

When the border was opened we spent many of our weekends camping in southern Spain. One of our favourite beaches was Buller's Beach, which is situated to the immediate north of Sotogrande. Spain was entirely undeveloped, with places like Marbella and Fuengirola being small fishing villages. When the border was closed in the mid-1960s the ferry to Algeciras remained, so we were able to spend many happy weekends in Spain, by garaging a car permanently in the vicinity of the ferry terminal. Granada was a favourite destination and I remember Timothy writing up a number of history projects on Ferdinand and Isabella and on the fifteenth and sixteenth century conflicts between Christianity and Islam. Additionally, we frequently toured in Morocco and of course the ferry to Tangiers remained fully in service. Memorably we were able to charter a motorised fishing vessel (MFV) to Tangiers under the stewardship of Captain Terrence Stopford RN, then Captain of the Dockyard.

We lived in various addresses, my favourite of which were 10 Library Gardens, The Old Naval Hospital, and latterly 4 Rosia Parade. There is a school of belief which claims that in October 1805 Admiral Nelson's body was laid out on the dining room table of 4 Rosia Parade, which then formed part of the Naval Officers' mess. If this is true then he may have rested upon the very table where we ate as a family – certainly the table was large and could accommodate a large company of officers.

Gibraltar holds very happy memories for my family and me. We lived there at a formative stage in both my career and as a family with young sons. We all appreciated the sport and the outdoor life and I hope took full advantage of it.

Timothy specialises in human rights and the law of harassment, a skill which he maintains he developed in part response to the harassment directed against the Rock by the Franco regime. Richard is a shipping agent with Gearbulk, and has remained a keen fisherman and surfer, all of which he started to acquire in Gibraltar. All three of us remain keen members of the Friends and look forward to the various events which take place each year. In 2005 my granddaughter Venetia, then aged 17, undertook a short work placement with Dominique Searle of the *Gibraltar Chronicle*, thus extending Gibraltar's influence to a further generation of my family.

Gibraltar will always remain for us a special place indeed.

Our back cover picture is from the *News Chronicle* of 11 May 1957. In December 1956, in Australia, Roy Cruttenden jumped 24ft. 10¾in. His elder son, Timothy Lawson-Cruttenden, is Hon. Treasurer of the Friends of Gibraltar. The Friends visited COMCEN in June 2009, as we reported on page 7 of *Rock Talk* in July 2009. – Ed.

