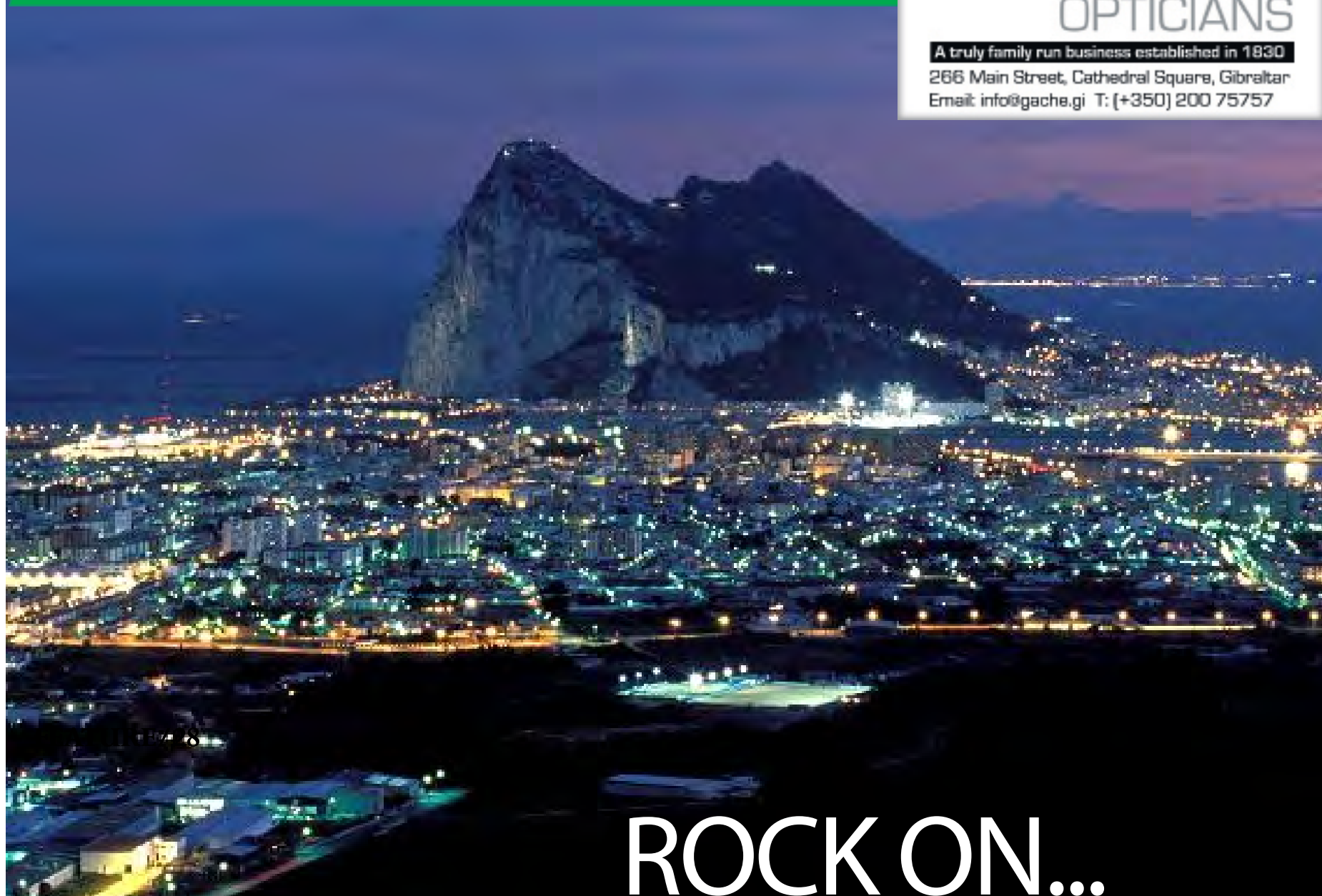


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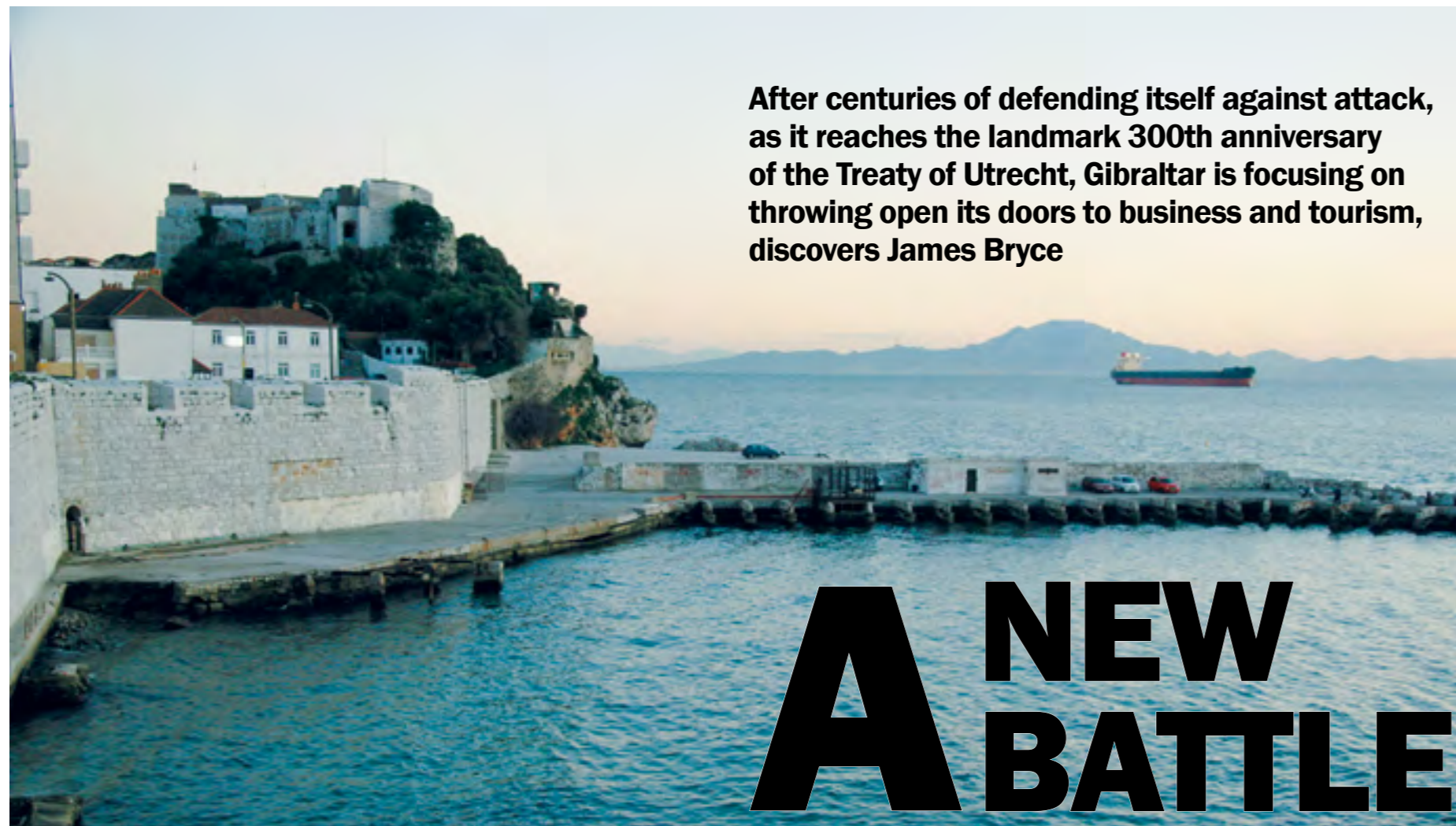
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After centuries of defending itself against attack, as it reaches the landmark 300th anniversary of the Treaty of Utrecht, Gibraltar is focusing on throwing open its doors to business and tourism, discovers James Bryce

A NEW BATTLE



through these photos," enthuses the shop's proud owner Luis Mascarenhas.

"I can't think of anywhere else in the world which has such a wide mix of religions and races in such a small space and I get a lot of pleasure from taking pictures of life in Gibraltar. I already have over 200,000 photos available and there are thousands more which are waiting to be archived.

"It's a huge amount of work, but I love what I do and I wouldn't want to be doing anything else," continues the 70-year-old, whose collection combines his own photography with archives sold to him over the years. Of course no account of Gibraltar would be complete without mentioning the Rock's role in military history. Something which a walk along streets including Bomb House Lane, South Barrack Road and Naval Hospital Hill ensures you cannot forget.

The walls of Luis' shop are adorned with photos of the iconic spitfires on the runway during the Second World War, while a Nazi zeppelin can be seen hovering menacingly above the Rock. A picture of a meeting between Adolf Hitler and Spanish dictator General Franco - one of the few images not taken in Gibraltar - shows two men who had a vested interest in the Rock.

Franco later attempted to isolate the territory by closing the frontier and cutting telephone communication after Gibraltarians had voted to remain British in a referendum. For the 13 years between 1969 and 1982, families and friends on opposite sides of the fence were physically kept apart, with only limited means of communication.

"In the days when the border was closed, families used to gather on either side of the frontier each Sunday and shout

"The Nazi leader planned to invade Gibraltar due to its strategic importance at the head of the Mediterranean"

to one another, catching up on the news and complementing each other on how they looked," says Ajessa Dalmedo from Gibraltar's tourist board.

"There would have been a lot of Gibraltarians who had married Spaniards and who were isolated from their extended family. It must have been a very difficult time for them."

Hitler's intentions were even more sinister than Franco's. The Nazi leader planned to invade Gibraltar due to its strategic importance at the head of the Mediterranean. But although the attack seemed imminent, the dictator failed to carry out his threat, due to the heavy fortifications surrounding Gibraltar on both land and sea.

Today, the only occupying forces are the countless betting firms taking advantage of favourable tax regulations, and the hoards of tourists who descend on the Rock each year.

In the past 16 years, Gibraltar has licensed 25 international gaming companies, helping to generate revenue which accounts for nearly a quarter of its gross domestic product (GDP). Last year saw three million visitors come to Gibraltar, with up to three cruise ships a day docking here during the busy summer months, providing vital revenue to small businesses.

A new airport terminal and plans to construct a tunnel under the runway are evidence of Gibraltar's ambition to attract more airlines and yet more visitors to the British enclave.

"People love visiting the Rock, not only for the weather but also the unique mix of Spanish and English cultures," explains Dalmedo during a tour of the Rock.

"You can have paella for lunch and then fish and chips for your dinner, it's quite a unique contrast."

As we tick off the Rock's key attractions including Europa Point, the stunning St Michael's Cave and The Great Siege Tunnels, we are occasionally forced to stop due to the Rock's most famous residents blocking the road.

"The apes are undoubtedly the star attraction here but they can be a bit of a nuisance sometimes," adds Dalmedo, with the kind of mock disapproval usually associated with a loving parent describing their naughty child.

"They've been known to go into the cafe at the top, open the fridges and help themselves to ice cream and crisps.

"They're certainly not shy," she laughs, as we watch a car of bemused tourists driving off with an ape on the roof and another hanging from the wing mirror.

The views from the top of the Rock are truly staggering, with Morocco looming large to the south, the Costa del Sol curving away to the east, and further still, the snow-capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada.

It is from here, atop a peninsula standing just 426 metres high and 5km long, that it becomes apparent just quite how strategic the Rock would have been in times of war. Gibraltar was first fortified by the Moors in 1333, who built a large castle and harbour to keep out unwanted visitors.

These defences were later reinforced in the 1500s under Charles V, who ordered the construction of a wall to defend against the threat of pirates.

The most impressive defensive effort however, came in the 1700s thanks to the creation of a labyrinth of tunnels constructed to defend against a siege by Spanish and French forces.

Prompted by a request by Gibraltar's governor of the

time, General Eliot, to find a way of placing heavy guns on the north face of the Rock, the network was chiselled out using sledgehammers, crowbars and gunpowder. Eliot was clearly keen to take personal responsibility for the safety of Gibraltar during his time in charge, reputedly sleeping with the key to the city gate under his pillow.

Prior to the Second World War a further network large enough to house 5,000 soldiers was dug into the Rock to prepare the enclave for the threat of Nazi invasion.

This year the Rock celebrates the 300th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Utrecht, an agreement which saw Spain cede Gibraltar to Britain.

But despite ongoing tension between the two nations over sovereignty of the Rock, the only battle Gibraltar is concerned with is the fight against global recession.

It seems that after centuries of trying to keep people out, these days the Rock is far more concerned with inviting them in.



SCENERY: From an old phone box to a view of the Rock

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FORTIFICATIONS:
Gates, gun emplacements and solid walls would have made life hard for Franco and Hitler

THE Queen, Winston Churchill and John Lennon. These are just some of the famous faces looking down from the wall of an unassuming photographic store on Gibraltar's Main St.

The images - all taken during visits to the Rock - form part of an impressive collection of over 200,000 photos charting Gibraltar's colourful history over the past 100 years.

Lennon is pictured posing on the runway alongside his new wife, Yoko Ono, after the couple married in Gibraltar in 1969. A young Queen meanwhile, can be seen smiling and waving to crowds during her only visit to Gibraltar, in 1954.

Then there is Prince Charles and Princess Diana leaving for their honeymoon and, more recently, Prince Edward's visit last year to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

But it is the images of everyday residents that offer the most intriguing insight into life in Gibraltar. Workers repairing boats in the dockyard and a horse race on what is now the airport's runway, capture a way of life on the Rock which has now largely disappeared.

"Gibraltar is such a fascinating place with a wealth of history, I learn something new every day when I'm looking



Digging for Victory

A remarkable 30 mile tunnel network which housed 5,000 soldiers during the war offers a fascinating glimpse into the past, discovers James Bryce

THE Rock may look solid from the outside, but inside it is more like a Swiss cheese thanks to an extensive tunnel network built during WWII.

In what resembles the lair of a James Bond villain, the network housed a self-contained community of 5,000 soldiers and is also where General Eisenhower coordinated the allies' north Africa campaign.

The project - which took three years to complete - was built on the orders of Winston Churchill, who believed that an attack on Gibraltar was imminent.

Such was the importance of the community that Churchill personally visited on a number of occasions, as did France's General Charles de Gaulle.

With its own hospital, communications system, water and electric supply - as well as equipment stores and vehicles - it could withstand a siege of up to a year.

And collectively with over 30 miles of tunnels, there are more roads inside the rock than there are on the outside. It meant orders were often passed on by messengers on motorbikes.

Soldiers spent six days a week inside the Rock, working on a rota of eight-hour shifts, which saw three men sharing each bed.

With long days of back-breaking physical work, accompanied by a ban on showering and rations of corned beef and baked beans, the stench in such a confined space is easy to imagine.

Health concerns due to the lack of sunlight meant that workers were ordered to sunbathe on their days off to

ensure they got their Vitamin D intake. Among the men (and 300 women) who lived inside the Rock were clerks, typists and RAF engineers who spent their days assembling spitfires on the airfield below.

Each person had their own individual addresses to allow them to receive post, with every tunnel being given an inconspicuous name such as Great North Road, to avoid detection. The tunnel network was so well concealed that despite German spies having an extensive knowledge of Gibraltar's external defences, they were completely oblivious to the activities inside the Rock. To help maintain the cover, workers would take rocks from a scree slope on the north face of the Rock, which was then topped up under cover of darkness by rubble excavated from the tunnels.

Miners and quarry-workers were recruited to build the network, and today you can even see a drill bit sticking out of one of the walls, having become lodged there 73 years ago.

Other evidence of a former community includes the original cable hooks still in place along the sides of the tunnels and on the so-called Jock's Balcony, overlooking the airport names can be clearly seen etched into the rock.

The names of hopeful men can also be found on the wall outside the women's wash block, although perhaps unsurprisingly, the wall outside the men's toilets remains bare.

It may have been 70-odd years ago, but it seems some things never change.

You what?

Gibraltar tourist office has had some strange questions over the years. Here are some of the best...

1. How much does the Rock weigh?
2. Where do I get the ferry into town?
3. Do locals live in caves?
4. Where is the 'Pillar' of Hercules?
5. Is the Moorish Castle the one used in the Harry Potter movie?
6. What do you do with your sick people?
7. Who built the Rock?
8. Where is the British consul?



A load of old Gibberish

There has been much debate about the origins of the word 'gibberish', but one of the most popular and plausible explanations links the word to Gibraltar

THE Rock's distinctive mix of English and Spanish, known as 'Llanito', involves speakers randomly alternating between the two languages during conversation. Academics have often dismissed the idea that Llanito is the source of the word, insisting instead that gibberish derives from the word 'jabber', meaning 'to talk nonsense'.

But the first recorded use of the word 'jabber' does not appear until half a century after the first reference to 'gibberish', adding weight to the Gibraltar link. Others have argued that the importance of Gibraltar as a military base and tourist destination has been an important factor.

They claim that a large number of non-native speakers coming into contact with the supposedly unintelligible Llanito led to the coining of the phrase 'gibberish' in reference to the place where it was spoken.

Sadly, there is no written record of the word's first usage to help support the Gibraltarian claims to the word.

But regardless of where gibberish derives from, spending a day listening to people speaking Llanito - switching back and forth between English and Spanish - is an experience that needs to be heard to be believed.

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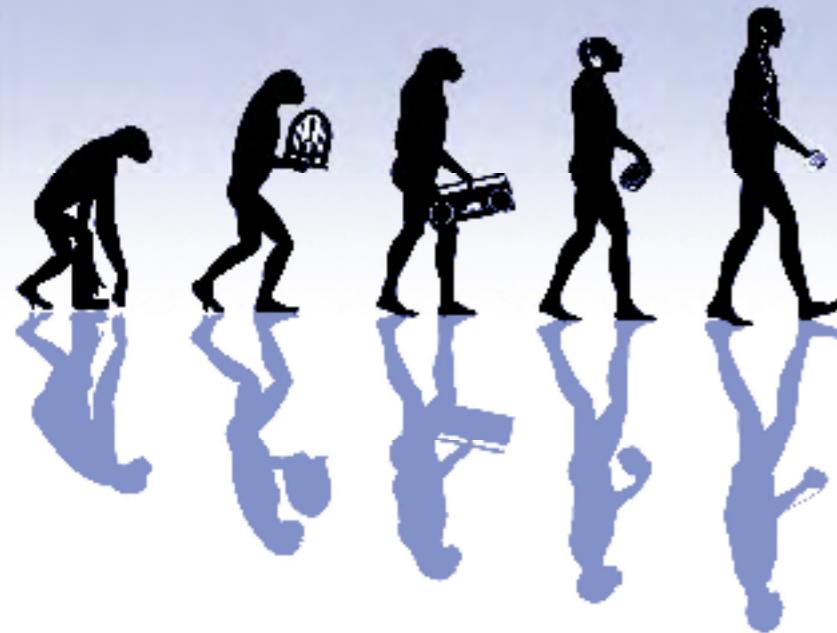
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FORWARD THINKING: Fabian Picardo with Al Gore and Pancho Campo

Painting the town green

Despite ongoing criticism of its bunkering activities, Gibraltar is making a determined effort to work towards a carbon-neutral future, writes James Bryce

WHEN it comes to environmental issues, Gibraltar is not the most obvious candidate to receive praise.

The Rock has suffered plenty of criticism in recent years over a number of issues including poor air quality and waste disposal.

Most notably though Gibraltar's role as a major hub for oil storage, known as bunkering, has led to sustained criticism from environmental groups.

Small spillages are not uncommon in the bay, which has led to fears that a major oil spill is an accident waiting to happen.

But the government is fighting back, and has launched a number of initiatives since coming to power in 2011, which are intended to make Gibraltar a greener place.

The reduction of import duties on hybrid and electric vehicles and its removal altogether of the tariff on low-energy lighting is the first step towards encouraging investment in green technology.

Then there is the new cycling initiative that encourages people to rent bikes to explore the enclave and two pilot schemes for renewable technologies.

With a planned eco-park dedicated to the sorting of waste there is plenty of evidence to show that Gibraltar is serious about the environment.

"During the election campaign we said that every minister will be a minister for the environment," said deputy chief minister Dr Joseph Garcia.

"It's fair to say that it is very much at the forefront of our decision-making; not just in an informational sense but also in a practical, day-to-day sense."

US vice president Al Gore. Green activist Gore and fellow speaker Juan Verde, a US government advisor on the environment, encouraged Gibraltar to set an example to the world by becoming a carbon-neutral nation.

Also speaking at the conference that day was Gibraltar's minister of the environment, Dr John Cortes, a scientist who has written extensively about the effects of climate change.

Born in Gibraltar, Cortes has vowed to help the Rock work towards a greener future and play its part in the fight against global warming.

"Any modern, progressive society must assume responsibility beyond its borders for the earth's resources," Cortes told the conference.

"For many years, Gibraltar has lagged behind in such wide-ranging matters of environmental significance as recycling and power generation.

"Awareness has been limited and not encouraged, and projects to improve our performance have been put on hold, risking infractions and fines, damaging our international standing, and what's worse, compromising the health of our community."

Among the government's key priorities as part of its manifesto are to increase public awareness of environmental issues and to improve air quality and waste management.

Cortes added: "Our people elected the greenest government in history and possibly the greenest in Europe, based on a manifesto that is at the same time ambitious and realistic in its aim to develop Gibraltar and its economy in conjunction with the environment."

There is certainly no doubt that the government is thinking green - but it will be the next few years that will determine how well it is acting green.

Rooney on the Rock?

Some of football's biggest names could be heading to Gibraltar if Uefa grants full membership to the enclave

GIBRALTAR'S bid to become a full member of European football's governing body Uefa will be decided in May.

A vote by Europe's 53 official football nations will determine whether or not the Rock can compete alongside Europe's elite.

If successful, it would mean Gibraltar's players could come up against the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney in competitive matches on the Rock.

Gibraltar was granted provisional membership in October following a campaign stretching back 16 years. The Gibraltar Football As-

sociation (GFA) originally applied to Fifa for membership in 1997, but the world governing body left the decision in the hands of Uefa.

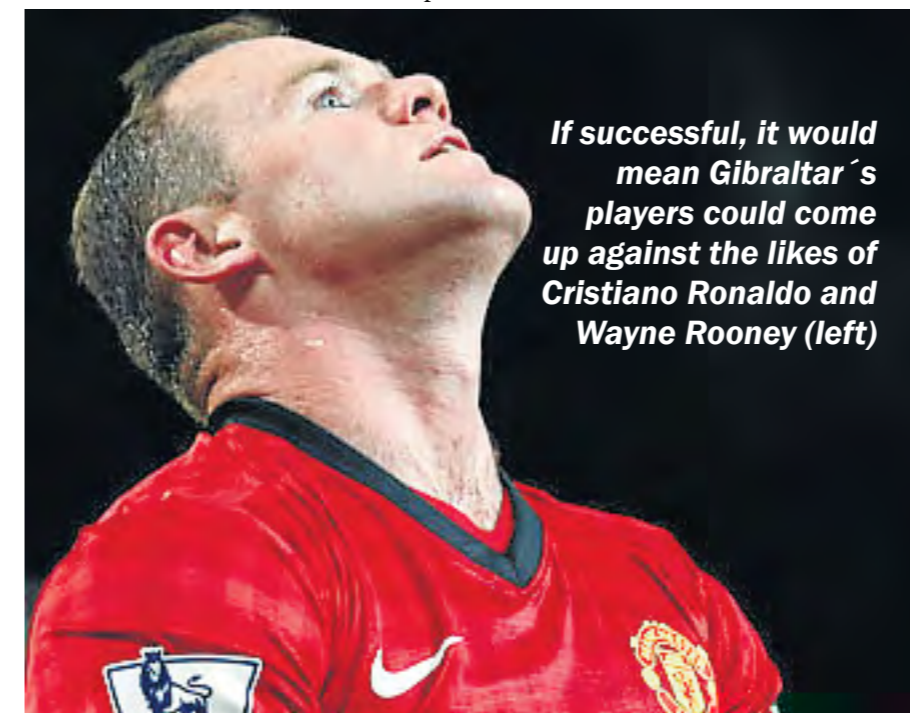
Matches are currently played at the 5,000 capacity Victoria Stadium on Winston Churchill Avenue, but full membership would lead to the construction of a new 30,000-seater stadium.

The Rock's Under-19 and Under-17 sides have been provisionally placed in qualifying groups for their 2014 European Championships.

The campaign to grant admittance to Gibraltar has been opposed by Spain due to the ongoing dispute over sovereignty. But GFA head Gareth Latin, a banker by trade, brushed aside the controversy by insisting it will be 'a proud moment' for Gibraltar.

"This is nothing at all to do with politics and we have said it from day one," said Latin.

"We should think of football and work in unity." And on the battle to win votes, he added: "I don't expect countries closer to eastern Europe to know where Gibraltar is. It's important that we make them aware."



If successful, it would mean Gibraltar's players could come up against the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney (left)

MISS WORLD ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

A NEW portrait of Gibraltar's very own Miss World 2009 Kaiane Aldorino has gone on permanent display in Gibraltar.

The large portrait of the celebrated Gibraltarite can be seen at the Gibraltar Fine Art Gallery. It acts as a strong reminder for the day

when the residents of the Rock learnt that one of their own was crowned the world's top beauty.

The picture depicts her smiling and wearing a John Galliano dress, who is also Gibraltarite.



PORTRAIT: Kaiane

Hat-trick of firsts

First Minister Fabian Picardo has had a great first year in office having met Obama in the White House, hit 40 and become a dad for the first time



IT has been an exciting first 15 months in charge for First Minister Fabian Picardo, who has met President Obama, hit the golden age of 40 and become a dad for the first time!

Aside from keeping the enclave out of recession and planning its future, his wife Justine gave birth to son Sebastian last April.

In a chat with the Olive Press to mark his second year in power, he was quick to brush off the lateness of becoming a dad. "My dad had me when he was 55 so in my family we all start late," he said.

On more important matters he is also convinced that the enclave's projected growth over the next few years will continue to make Gibraltar a solid draw for investors.

"I think Gibraltar can become a key business hub for Europe and there are many things Gibraltar can provide for intelligent investors," he said. "We are a modern nation and can give quick decisions to the needs of the international investors and we can be ambitious in our growth estimates."

A number of key factors are helping to attract new investment. In particular, Gibraltar has an educated and bi-lingual and skilled workforce. The legal system, based on the British system, is well regarded and a wealth of lawyers and accountants are on hand to help businesses. Infrastructure is improving by the month, with a new airport terminal, in particular, re-



cently opening. Gibraltar is now a fully integrated part of the EU and no longer a 'tax haven', meaning it now embraces the rules of the rest of the continent. On the so-called OECD 'white list' the Rock has become compliant with EU financial services regulations, in particular concerning money laundering.

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RUNNING OUT OF STOCK!

That's the problem being encountered by Mike Nicholls, managing director of estate agent Chesterton in Gibraltar

"DEMAND for rental properties at the lower end of the price spectrum, and demand for office space, is exceeding supply," explains Mike Nicholls, managing director of Chesterton in Gibraltar. "Quite simply, we need more stock!"
According to Nicholls (right) most of the 1000 apartments built from 2006 to 2010 have now been sold and occupied. "With the lack of development finance from banks, no new apartments are being built, or are even in the pipeline," adds Nicholls.

"As the steady migration into Gibraltar continues, that means there is a real squeeze on rental prices, which has a knock on effect to property prices generally. This demand for residential property stems from the employees of companies moving into Gibraltar and needing accommodation. But office stock is also at the lowest it has been for the decade that Nicholls has worked in Gibraltar. "In some cases, in both the office and the residential rental sector, we are finding new



tenants before the previous one has moved out. "Last week we closed an offer to purchase a two bedroom property for a buy-to-let client of ours at 2pm on the Thursday. By 3.30pm, we had rented it, to start as soon as the legal completion process was over." He continues: "It's becoming a challenge for Gibraltar's future growth. The advantages of Gibraltar are well documented. However, unless more property is built, the economy will not be able to expand much more." Established in London in 1805, Chesterton was the Rock's first international agent when it opened its doors in March 2008. It is now recognised as the leading agent for residential and commercial clients relocating from abroad, predominantly for tax and lifestyle reasons.



Expats put award-winning Moroccan riad on the market

Highly-rated hotel would make great investment material

IT was back in May 2009 that the Olive Press first reported on the newly-opened riad hotel Dar Gabriel in Morocco. The two British expat couples who had bought and transformed this run-down ruin within the fortress walls of the ancient city of Chefchaouen had finished the project and their hotel was finally up and running. Since we printed the article, Dar Gabriel has gone from

Advertorial

strength to strength and has just been awarded a Trip Advisor Traveller's award for 2013: an award only 1% of the hotels on Trip Advisor's database ever achieve. Chefchaouen nestles in the Rif mountains only a short drive from the Spanish enclave of Ceuta. A visit there is like stepping into a medieval world and the town is renowned for the blue painted walls and pavements within the medina.

It is a delight to explore and Dar Gabriel is the ideal place for a weekend break or a homely stop off point on the way to Marrakesh and beyond. Whether you are looking for a rich cultural experience, or a healthy business to invest in, at just €325,000 Dar Gabriel may just be worth a visit.

For more info email: penny@dargabriel.com or call 00 34 686 888 409

Savills Gibraltar: A year on the Rock

The Savills team in Gibraltar have enjoyed great success over their first 12 months of trading

IN what many consider still to be a bleak recession, the Gibraltar property market is still very much stable and growing.

Savills' rental portfolio has increased 10 fold, with the buy to let market proving to be the most lucrative. The company's client base derives from the UK, but close international links with the Savills global network has enabled it to service and entertain a collection of high profile foreign investors from all over the world, in particular Australasia. "With such a tight focus, local know-how is vital," explains director Sammy Armstrong. "We do not just know the area; we live in it. Everyone on our team is local, so our approach to Gibraltar's property market combines the rigorous expertise you would expect from a company like Savills with personal insight and practical knowledge." Kylie Sene leads the administration team, while two new members of staff have recently joined. Jeremy Boyd joins from Chesterton bringing with him a wealth of experience and Laura Green joins us from the marketing and events sector. "We are keen to play our role in Gibraltar's business and social scene," adds Sammy. "Our approach is friendly and personalised and we retain close relationships with clients and tenants alike." Visit Savills at 1/5 Irish Town or contact the team on 00350 20066633 or Sales@savills.gi



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PLAIN SAILING

Registering your yacht in Gibraltar has distinct advantages, writes Jonathan Stagnetto

THE ROCK'S location at the gateway to the Med and the facilities provided by its local marinas makes it ideally placed to register, moor, repair and maintain all sorts of yachts. All vessels registered in Gibraltar are registered as British flag vessels with documentation being identical to the UK. And mostly you will not have to pay VAT, nor import duty (if your vessel is not based in Gibraltar) and no tax on its sale. Furthermore it is not necessary for shareholders or company directors to be nationals or residents of Gibraltar and it is not necessary for the vessel to be surveyed annually. And finally the skipper does not need to hold any form of mariner's certificate in the case of pleasure yachts under 80 GRT. Any citizens of the EU or British nationals are allowed to register their yachts in Gibraltar and any companies incorporated in British territories and having principal places of business in these jurisdictions can too. Non-EU nationals can therefore make use of Gibraltar companies as approved vehicles for the ownership of their yachts under the British flag. All vessels registered in Gibraltar, however, are required to appoint registered agents in Gibraltar to attend to all registry and radio licensing requirements.

For more information contact Jonathan at FORM-A-CO (Gibraltar) Ltd at formaco@gibraltar.gi or call (350) 200 79959

Scam Avoidance - What can yacht brokers do for you?

Advertorial

By John Alcantara of Boatshed Gibraltar

Whether you are a buyer or seller a yacht broker provides a number of benefits ensuring a stress-free, secure transaction without the likelihood of the other party carrying out a scam on you. Firstly they can help sellers as they know the prices at which sales have recently been made and secondly they will know where is best to market the yacht. The broker filters out the dozens of people offering rock-bottom prices, 'guaranteed' funds and request for test sails to see the dolphins etc.

Owners - especially on the Costa del Sol - often leave their



boats in the marinas at the end of the season so make sure your broker has a strong local presence.

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More importantly a yacht broker makes use of a client account to protect the buyer and seller.

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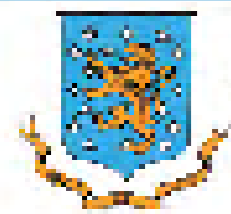
For a start a broker, especially one who belongs to a global franchise network will provide the widest range of boats and prices.

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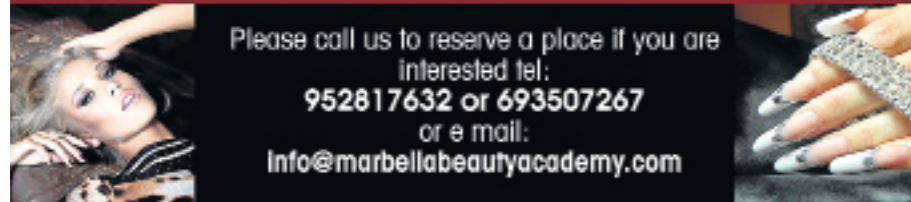
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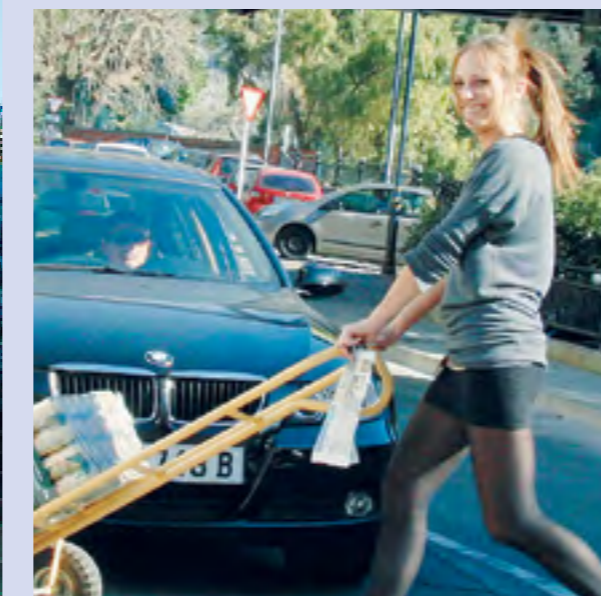
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SHOP TILL YOU DROP

Redefining the colour grey

RARELY a month goes by when an exciting new shop does not open in Gibraltar. And the last few months have been no exception, with leading brands including Holland & Barrett and Eroski City opening there. As well as Marks & Spencer you will find all the best UK high street shops including BHS, Next and Oasis. There is also a Monsoon, an Early Learning Centre and Top Shop, not to mention brands like Rolex and Swarovski. Giving the celebrated Morrison's supermarket a run for its money, the new Eroski City near the border is promising over 1000 products from UK giant Waitrose. In total its Waitrose range will make up around 15% of the outlet's total product offering. Meanwhile, the enclave's celebrated Morrison's supermarket is still going strong and said to be the most lucrative in the whole chain. It has become a ritual for expats up and down the

There is a lot more to Gibraltar than just duty free cigarettes and perfume. Over the last few years there has been a real revolution in the quality of shops to open there, writes Elizabeth Gould

coast to head to Gibraltar a few times a month just to do their regular shop there. Another shop worthy of note is The Beacon Press, which is Gibraltar's leading supplier of general and computer stationery, office products and furniture. Established for over 20 years it is strong on customer service and makes regular deliveries to its business clients around the Rock. Another couple of stylish new retro-style shops to open are Chique Boutique in Ocean Village and All Wrapped up in Irish Town. Chique Boutique sells clothes, shoes, bags, accessories and make up and has recently launched an online gift company which can deliver gifts from Malaga to Gibraltar. All Wrapped up offers gifts and homeware. Meanwhile Marine & Indus-



trial is a battery specialists and stocks a wide range of batteries for cars, marine, motorcycles and mobility equipment. The Cycle Centre on Devils Tower Road offers a wide range of cycles at duty free prices. Gache Opticians offers a great choice and

friendly service while Imperial in Los Barrios is a fantastic place for quality tables, chairs and sofas. You will also find the latest Apple products at Newton store in Irish Town. Finally if you are looking for a Land Rover visit Capurro in Line Wall Road.

SINCE the phenomenal success of erotic novel Fifty Shades of Grey no one has been surprised by a huge upsurge in sales for sex toys and erotic underwear. But one Gibraltar shop has also seen a demand in grey lingerie. AiméeJay Intimates is seeing more and more customers buying grey undergarments since the 120 million-selling book – now translated into 61 languages came out. "It is great to see S&M brands fly off the shelf, but for the first time we are seeing a demand for grey lingerie too," explains owner AiméeJay, who moved to the Rock after running a successful spa in Oxford. "Clients even want grey accessories such as gloves and blindfolds: grey is now holding its own against the reds and blacks. Over Christmas we sold out of grey silk ties for role playing Christian Grey! And in our summer collection, we are strongly featuring grey as the new black. "It is making my inner goddess wonder if the man in a dowdy grey suit is actually sending a very different message to what I once thought!"



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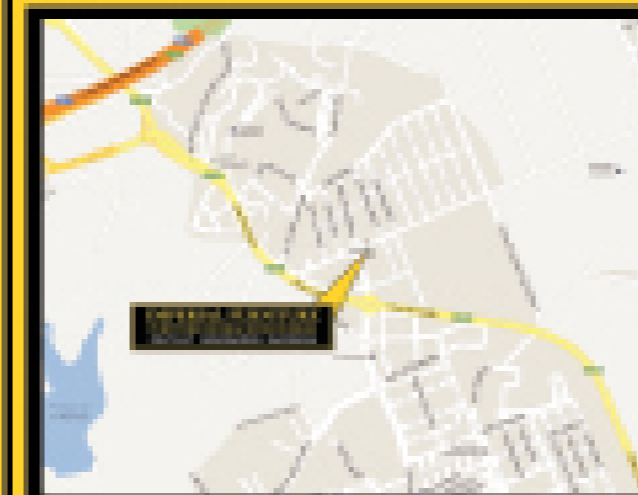


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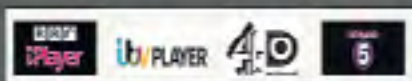
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No time to monkey about

Kathryn Richardson takes a look at how the Gibraltar government educates its children.

FOR those readers who think children in Gibraltar receive a more privileged education than those in the UK, you may be right if you're counting the weather.

But the truth is, children

on the Rock learn the same material as children in the UK and Wales, with schools following the National Curriculum at all the key stages. Not surprisingly, Spanish is compulsory from the age of four, in comparison to

England and Wales where children begin learning languages at the age of 11. Altogether there are nine nurseries, including one for children with special needs, and 14 schools.

The schools are divided into three sectors, First (4-7 year olds), Middle (8 to 11-year-olds) and Secondary (12 to 18-year-olds).

The two secondary schools are divided by sex with the Bayside Comprehensive School for boys and the Westside Comprehensive School for girls.

Alongside this is one special school, St. Martin's Special School, for children with special needs and learning disabilities from 4 to 16 years and the Gibraltar College which offers academic, vocational and professional courses to students aged 15 and over.

Jewish children are catered for at The Hebrew Primary School, the only faith school in Gibraltar, which teaches 4 to 11-year-olds but also accepts children of other faiths too.

IN RUDE HEALTH

GIBRALTAR has a fairly good standard of health and unlike the UK it has not been affected by the recession. In fact, the Gibraltar Health Authority offers a range of healthcare services including Acute, Primary Care and Mental Health Services, which are funded by government revenues and those registered within the scheme. This means that healthcare services for contributors are free of charge and prescription costs have been kept at a low rate of £2.50 per item or a maximum of £7.50 no matter how many items you need.

As with the UK, residents who fit into categories such as low income are exempt from these charges. Unlike the UK, elderly Gibraltarians benefit the most in the system, with pensioners being able to receive care in the UK due to an agreement which mirrors EU regulations. And because the territory has a more limited range of specialties, they also pay for patients, together with an escort, to receive treatment in UK hospitals such as The Royal Marsden Hospital, Guys and St Thomas' Hospital.

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Advertorial

SECURING THE ROCK

Insurance company Ibox has grown in Gibraltar thanks to the good personal service it offers its clients

POTATO shops that don't sell potatoes and businesses that have been flooded out - these are just some of the problems faced by insurance firms in Gibraltar. But despite the odd setback, and an economic downturn affecting the rest of Europe, the Rock appears to be going from strength to strength.

This has prompted one insurance company to establish a new base in Gibraltar, catering to the large number of thriving local businesses.

Set up in 2000, Ibox Insurance moved into Gibraltar eight months ago having established itself as one of the leading providers of car and motor insurance to expats

in Spain and Portugal. "It is a very buoyant market here and there is a lot of growth in Gibraltar. It doesn't appear to have been hit by the recession," said Rachele King, retail manager at Ibox.

"People in Gibraltar really seem to value customer service, which we see as being one of our strengths, and we have had a lot of referrals as a result of that.

"We provide a personal service and I think people value being able to pop in and speak to us rather than having to go through a call centre. We know all of our customers on a personal level and that makes a big difference to our understanding of their needs," adds the 42-year-old Londoner,

who joined the firm five years ago. Ibox has 45 staff working from its Gibraltar office across all areas of insurance, but it is the retail sector that is seen as the biggest growth area.

"We carry out risk assessments and point out to clients what they can do to prevent accidents. It's our job to make people aware of potential problems before they become one."

COMPUTER WORLD

HAVE you ever regretted buying a laptop in Spain? Found the operating system impossible to understand and the keys in all the wrong places?

Well, you don't have to go all the way to the UK to solve the problem. In nearby Gibraltar everything is in English (the operating system, the keyboard and the manual) and there is no shortage of computer and electronics shops plying their trade. What's

more they are VAT-free (although there is a small import duty) which makes them cheaper than in Spain. Whether you are looking for a laptop, an iPad or a mobile phone, it's perfect. Gibraltar has been home to these computer and electronic stores for more than 50 years, and was originally completely duty free when shopping there. Now only cameras are com-

pletely duty free. Laptops and computers pay a small import duty.

On Main Street and in Irish Town you will find a mix of independent retailers, including the Newton Store, one of only a handful of official Apple stores in the region. It is an excellent place to buy everything from an iPad to an iMac and the team of English-speaking technicians is second to none.

'Lucky with jobs'

JOBSEEKERS have plenty of opportunities in Gibraltar with the economy still growing and plenty of jobs available in a variety of sectors.

"We are lucky in Gibraltar to see the job market staying active, with the e-gaming industry continuing to evolve, and the financial services sector expanding," said Russell Hood of First Choice Recruitment.

"The use of temporary and contract staff as a flexible resource is another trend we expect to see grow over the coming year. Overall, I am very optimistic about new opportunities opening up for people eager to work."

His company's success is based upon the premise that there is more to a person than their CV and more to an employer than their job specification.

Advertorial

Offshore asset disclosure comes to Spain's wealthy expatriates

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A message from Totus – internationally experienced wealth managers for over 25 years, now with a qualified team of advisers living and working near you.

UNTIL now, few expatriates here gave so much as a second thought to the often large percentage of their assets they have kept "offshore" from Spain, and treated as "non-Spanish" for tax purposes.

From the start of this year, however, the Spanish authorities will be expecting these expats to reveal all, as Spain – quite rightly, in our opinion – prepares to begin taxing Spanish residents on all of their worldwide income, not just that arising in the country itself. Failure to declare any amount worth more than €50,000 in any single asset class, could result in a tax and fine equal to up to 150% of the tax due on the undeclared non-Spanish assets, which would be taxed as if they were income.

Hacienda's message is loud and clear: if it discovers you have any undeclared assets, and you've failed to disclose them during the amnesty that just ended, you face potentially huge fines.

Not surprisingly, our message to expatriates living in Spain, is this: if you have assets including bank accounts and investments worth more than €50,000, and you have not told Hacienda about them, you should waste no time in arranging to speak to an adviser or tax specialist as soon as possible – if you don't want to risk losing all of it.

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WHERE TO EAT



VARIETY: Bussling Sacarello's, while The Landings and Patrick (right) and (bottom left) Cafe Solo's terrace

QUAY TO THE STOMACH



LITTLE by little the message is getting out that if you want to eat well in Gibraltar you need to get off Main Street. This is certainly the case with a string of new restaurants opening up on charming Queensway Quay, a millionaires playground where houses start at £4.2 million mark. Without a doubt the best of a string of eateries here is the wonderful Landings, an elegant and relaxed place to have lunch or supper. With its stylishly set raffia tables overlooking the ma-

rina, it is no surprise that recent regulars include John Prescott, First Minister Fabian Picardo and a variety of Coronation Street stars. "We get a lot of wealthy yachtie types too," explains owner Ann Hudson, who heralds from the south coast of England. The menu is also appropriately grand, with a superb mix of exciting dishes and plenty of adventurous cuisine. This season's highlights include a delicious seafood salad of lobster and prawn, beautifully presented with a slice of goats cheese, baby grapefruit slices and a free range egg. Chicken livers with a rich onion gravy and mashed potatoes was superb on a cold day and the homemade terrine of duck and foie with pistacio nuts and bacon particularly grabbed me. There was an amazingly good value Kobe burger at just £16 served on a Jamaican-style potato rosti with wasabi mayonnaise. The Jamaican influence includes Jerk pork and

Jon Clarke locates the most exciting places to eat on the Rock

chicken and 'herb festival' cake and is all thanks to head chef, Patrick Rogers, who trained for five years under Anton Edelman at London's Savoy. "We make all our food from fresh and everything from scratch and I am building up a good team here," he explains. "I think we are fast garnering a good reputation here and that is good news." Another excellent waterfront venue is the nearby Water-

front, while Ipanema over in Ocean Village is a Brazilian-style churrasco, run by amiable owners Danny Breeze from Kent and wife Marianna from Slovakia. If it is light bites you are looking for - or by far the best coffee - then look out for Sacarello's. This charming, always busy, former coffee warehouse, has been going since 1817, and is famous for roasting and blending its own coffees. Also extremely popular is the

superbly located Café Solo on Casemates Square, which has a terrace, almost always full at lunchtimes. You sit with wonderful views of the Rock and watch the world go by as you eat a great range of dishes and specials of the day.



There was an amazingly good value Kobe burger at just £16 served on a Jamaican-style potato rosti with wasabi mayonnaise. The Jamaican influence includes Jerk pork and

FRINGE FEST LAUNCHES

GIBRALTAR will host its first Fringe festival in June. The event taking place in the Alameda Botanic Gardens, from June 20 - 23 will include theatre, dance, music, busking and street performance, as well as art exhibitions. Acts so far confirmed at the event supported by the Olive Press include a dance workshop, led by Swiss Italian Flavia Ghisalberti and other acts including 'Paperman' Lorenzo Torres, and a German called Mr Tang. Gibraltar group, Metro Motel, will also host a concert. Organiser, Schirin Boudny, said: "Gibraltar is on the international Fringe map now and we hope to attract local artists as well as international ones, year by year. "A Fringe is fun, for the performers as well as the audience! I am very excited and look forward to some fun days in June." Performers can request nontraditional performance venues too, including bathrooms, bus stops and rooftops. Applications for performers close on February 28.

For more information visit www.gibfringe.com

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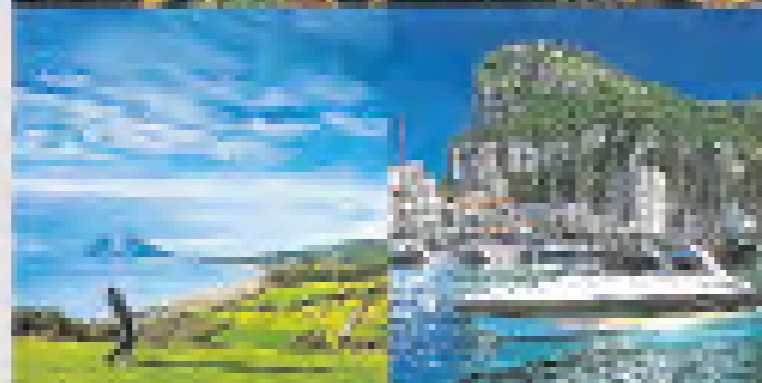
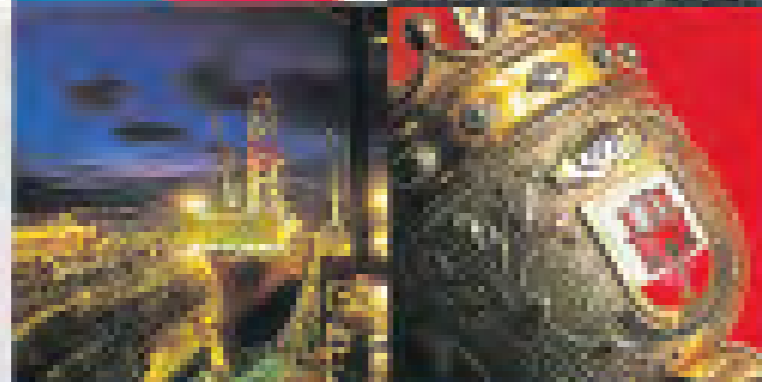
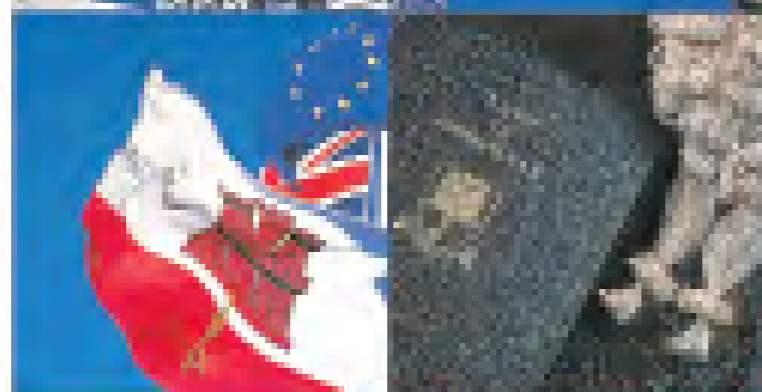
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LOVE YOU DO: John and Yoko got married in Gib

Gibraltar has long been a popular venue to tie the knot, discovers Jon Clarke

It's no rocky road!

A BIG fan of southern Spain it was perhaps not that much of a surprise when John Lennon decided to tie the knot in Gibraltar in 1969. The Beatle and his Japanese wife Yoko Ono said 'I do' on the Rock, before spending a famous week in bed in Canada. But they are far from the only big names to have

married in the Las Vegas of southern Europe. Since then there has been a steady stream of famous lovebirds taking advantage of the years of history, siege and intrigue, which has given Gibraltar its passionate spirit. "We've had Sean Connery, Rick Parfitt and Sir John Mills over recent years," explains Karl Grambow, a commissioner of oaths, who has

been helping to marry couples for decades. "I helped marry Freddie Starr, who was a particularly quiet man, whose wife did all the talking." The German, who settled on the Rock for reasons of romance in 1966, explains how each year hundreds of couples fly in from all over the world to get married or simply to renew their vows. But Gibraltar's appeal as a romantic sojourn is not new. During the 1950s Hollywood stars Lawrence Harvey and Margaret Leighton were one of the first high profile couples to marry on the rock. But there are a few things that need sorting out in advance, if you wish to get married in Gib. You will need, perhaps obviously, your passport, as well as your birth certificate and a document of non impediment, proving you are free to marry. Due to its popularity it is also advisable to apply early for a suitable date at the Register Office in Gibraltar.

A number of experienced wedding planners can be found to help you through the tricky procedure. One of the best of these is Sam Dimond, 28, from All Things Nice, who has her own shop selling all range of wedding dresses, suits and paraphernalia. "There are a number of good places to get married now and the wedding photos and almost certainly the weather will be perfect."

No normal corner shop



IT'S anything but your normal corner shop... and it's been around for a while. Well, since the second world war to be exact. And another thing about Corner Shop Ltd (left), it is not actually a corner shop, it is really a chain of two shops selling perhaps the best quality paints and home decorating equipment on the south coast. Run by an amiable Gibraltarian Daryl, it stocks all the leading UK brands including Dulux, Cuprinol and Hammerite.

There are a number of good places to get married now and the wedding photos and almost certainly the weather will be perfect."

Solomon Levy – Proud Gibraltarian

Mason Jones chats to one of the Rock's most colourful characters about his Jewish roots



GIBRALTAR'S longest-serving estate agent says he will call me back in exactly ten minutes. Like clockwork, the phone buzzes and it's Solomon Levy MBE. Nephew of the Rock's first Chief Minister, first Civic Mayor and general man about town, Levy - more commonly known as 'Momy' - is Gibraltarian through and through. The dapper 76-year-old quickly explains how he was one of the Rock's early birds when it came to real estate. "When I started in 1960 there were only four estate agents in the whole of Gibraltar, growing to 35 agents at one stage. "There are fewer than that now, but even in the recession there is still a demand for property in Gibraltar and people still want to invest here because of the security it provides." Although it is clear that Momy loves his town dearly, he doesn't think too much of certain sections of the 1713 treaty that gave the Rock to the British. "To this day it still says no Jews or Muslims are allowed on the Rock, and although you may not see me do it, I stick two fingers up to that treaty! "In fact the first thing I did as mayor was get the Rabbi, the Imam and the Catholic Bishop together to shake hands!"



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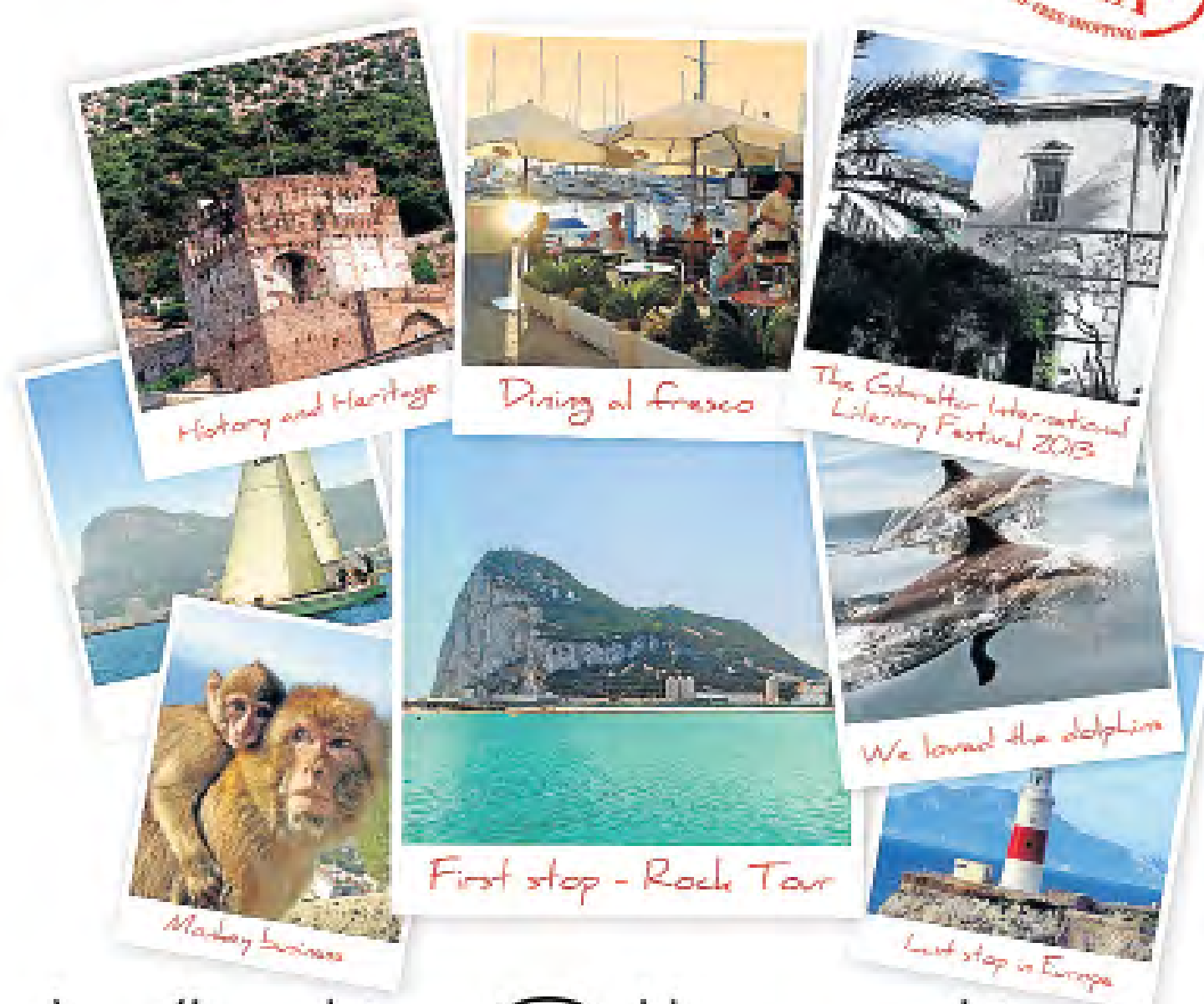
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