



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE, SPORT & LEISURE
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PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Neanderthals in Science and Technology Yearbook

The 2008 edition of the prestigious *Yearbook of Science and Technology* published by McGraw-Hill in New York carries a three-page entry entitled *Neanderthal extinction*. Professor Clive Finlayson of the Gibraltar Museum was invited to write the entry. In it Professor Finlayson presents an up-to-date view of the question. The main sections of the entry are: effect of cold climates; arrival of modern humans; genetic mixing; exchange of ideas; and reasons for extinction.



Gibraltar 1 – the Forbes' Quarry Neanderthal skull. Photo: Clive Finlayson, Gibraltar Museum

The entry emphasises the late survival of the last Neanderthal populations in Gorham's Cave and it is illustrated with a photograph of this site as well as with one of the Gibraltar skull. Neanderthals lived across Europe and Asia from about 300 thousand years ago and we pick up the last survivors on the Rock between 28 and 24 thousand years ago. Climate gradually fragmented the existing populations, relicts surviving in glacial refugia. Gibraltar appears to have been an especially privileged location where the last Neanderthals found a small piece of paradise.



Gibraltar 2 – Skull cap of Devil's Tower 4-year old Neanderthal child Photo: Clive Finlayson, Gibraltar Museum



Gibraltar 2 – Mandible and partial maxilla of Devil's Tower 4-year old Neanderthal child Photo: Clive Finlayson, Gibraltar Museum

Note to Editors: **For further information contact Marie Mosquera at the Gibraltar Museum on 74289. Alternatively email museumpr@gibraltar.gi**