



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
310 Main Street
Gibraltar

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SPRING FESTIVAL 2012 – BOOK-CROSSING DAY

The Ministry for Culture is pleased to announce the return of Book-Crossing Day on Saturday 9th June 2012 at the Lobby of Parliament House between 11am and 2pm. This is the fourth time that an event of this type is organised in Gibraltar.

History of Book-Crossing

Book-Crossing is defined as "the practice of leaving a book in a public place to be picked up and read by others, who then do likewise. The concept began in order to encourage the aim to "make the whole world a library." The idea was originally conceived in 2001 and has expanded and grown throughout the world.

The initiative has developed so that books are "set free" into public places or hotspots where others will "catch" them. Books may be left at "Official Book-Crossing Zones" (OBCZs) which can be located in coffee shops, cafes, restaurants and other public places. The purpose of these locations is to get members in the area to leave books to share with the public.

In 2007 Singapore became the first official Book-Crossing country in the world. In an initiative launched together with the National Library of Singapore. In total 2,000 locations within the country were designated as 'hotspots' or Official Book-Crossing Zones.

There is a Book-Crossing anniversary convention held every year where Book-Crossers go to enjoy organized literary-related events and release books together. The location of the convention changes each year.

Many unofficial conventions or "unconventions" take place at other locations and times throughout the year, this makes it easier for Book-Crossers who cannot travel internationally to the convention to gather and share their love of books.